Lawmakers insist on accountability on COVID-19 funds. PAGE 3
Finance denounces illegal lottery gaming on social media. PAGE 6

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

75¢

Volume XXX, Issue No. 92

www.saipantribune.com | MONDAY MAY 11, 2020 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

Guam resident tests positive

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A 67-year-old male resident of Guam who had just landed on Saipan last Saturday was immediately isolated after testing positive for COVID-19, three days after the CNMI reported its first confirmed case after an 18-day streak of zero positive cases. This brings the CNMI's total number of COVID-19 positive cases to 16.

The affected person tested positive during the airport surveillance process. The specimen was confirmed positive at the Commonwealth Health Center laboratory.

According to a Governor's

See GUAM on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 3pm, May 10, 2020**

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	151	0	151
Recovered	123	1	124
Active	22	0	22
Deaths	6*	0	6*

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	15	1	16
Recovered	12	0	12
Active	1	1	2
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested		2,336	

*Total includes a sailor from the USS *Theodore Roosevelt*.

**Saipan has 2 active COVID-19 cases, with 2,336 persons tested through the community-based testing at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Guam goes four days with no new positive COVID-19 case.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

TESTING ASSISTANCE
Rosanna Ortiz, a volunteer of the group Friends of the CWs, helps an individual register for the COVID-19 testing last Saturday at the Garapan Central Park Roundhouse. The group also distributed relief packs to 160 contract workers who have either been furloughed or laid off due to the pandemic.
IVA MAURIN

Story on Page 2

IPI pays vendors with uncontested payable accounts

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC has already paid all private vendors that have uncontested payable accounts, according to finance director Frances Mafnas.

In response to a question raised at a recent Commonwealth Casino Commission board meeting, Mafnas said IPI has paid all vendors

See IPI on Page 4

RELATED NEWS
- $61.9K legal fee sought vs IPI. PAGE 2

Some teachers didn't get pay

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Contrary to news that all furloughed Public School System teachers and staff received their salaries for pay period 8, a few have complained that they have yet to receive any payments.

According to a high school teacher who agreed to speak on condition of anonymity, they were informed by PSS administration last Thursday that they would be receiving their owed wages for pay period 8, for regular 80 hours of work. However, as of last Saturday, several furloughed PSS staff reportedly have yet to receive their wages.

"I was ecstatic upon hear-

See SOME on Page 4

Sablan

PSS funding hiked to $23.2M after 'calculation error'

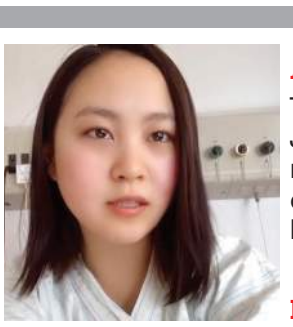
WASHINGTON, D.C.— The CNMI Public School System will receive an additional $810,978, soon after the U.S. Department of Education clarified that it made a "calculation error" on the $27.9 million CARES Act Education Stabilization Funds intended for the CNMI.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said Thursday last week that the U.S. Department of Education informed him that it made a "calculation error" when dividing $27,940,945 in

See PSS on Page 4

INSIDE

NATION
Three members of the White House coronavirus task force, including Dr. Anthony Fauci, are in quarantine.
PAGE 11



ASIA
The coronavirus in Japan has brought not just an epidemic of infections, but also bullying.
PAGE 12

LIFE & STYLE
Little Richard, one of the chief architects of rock 'n' roll, has died. He was 87.
PAGE 15

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

KENSINGTON
HOTEL
JOIN OUR TEAM
We are looking for passionate and energetic people,
who are customer-focused to be part of our growing team.
Immediate Available Position
Anticipated starting date of employment: June 8, 2020
Engineering & Security
Position: General Maintenance
Location: Chalan Pale Arnold Main Road, San Roque
Openings: 10
Full or Part Time: Full Time
Salary Range: $8.33/ Hourly
Job Duties:
Perform Routine preventative maintenance to ensure that machines continue to run smoothly, building systems operate efficiently, or the physical condition of building does not deteriorate.
Qualification Requirements:
High School diploma or equivalent
2 years work experience related to General Maintenance
Position: Security Guard
Location: Chalan Pale Arnold Main Road, San Roque
Openings: 3
Full or Part Time: Full Time
Salary Range: $8.00/ Hourly
Job Duties:
Inspecting and patrolling hotel premises and/or employing housing regularly, perform daily inspections on all employees at hotel premises and/or employee housing, providing daily written reports on a daily basis, adhering to company policies and legal regulations
Qualification Requirements:
High School diploma or equivalent
12 months work experiences related to Security Guard/Safety
Interested applicants can apply with Micronesia Resort Inc. dba: Kensington Hotel Saipan via walk-in at San Roque, Monday – Friday, 8:00AM – 5:00PM except for holiday or submit resume via email at hr@mrisaipan.com or Interested applicant may contact Human Resources Office at telephone no. 670-237-4557/4505.
Kensington offers exceptional benefits for Full and Part Time associates. Benefits may include Paid Time Off, Holiday Pay, Premium Pay for Night Shift, Duty Meal, Hotel Discounts, Optional Basic Health Insurance and Optional Dormitory Accomodations.
SAIPAN
KENSINGTON
HOTEL

Local

$61.9K legal fees sought vs IPI

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Seven former workers that are suing Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC asked the federal court on Friday to award them $61,934 in attorneys' fees in connection with their motion for sanctions in their lawsuit.

Earlier on Tuesday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona ordered IPI to pay a total of $29,459 in attorneys' fees and costs incurred by seven former workers in connection with their countermotion to compel IPI to produce some documents.

Friday's request for award of $61,934 relates to Manglona's order last April 16, when she found IPI in civil contempt for violating the court's two orders on discovery. Manglona granted the former workers' motion to sanction IPI. At that time, Manglona said that if IPI fails to comply with the deadlines ordered that day, a monetary sanction of $2,000 a day will be imposed until IPI complies.

In their motion for attorneys' fees and costs filed Friday, the workers, through counsels Aaron Halegua and Bruce Berline, said the $61,934 is reasonable, particularly given that IPI violated two court orders and the success of their motion upon which the court granted virtually all requested relief, including a finding of civil contempt against IPI.

Halegua

Berline

New York-based Halegua is demanding $47,404 in attorney's fees for 118.51 hours of work at a rate of $400 an hour, while local attorney Berline is demanding $8,022 for 26.74 hours a rate of $300 an hour. Halegua's paralegal, Jacob Kessler, is requesting $508 for 4.07 hours at a rate of $125 per hour. Another lawyer, Times Wang, is demanding $6,000 in attorney's fees for 15 hours of work at $400 an hour.

» 7 workers hire third lawyer in New York

Halegua and Berline said Wang, a 2011 graduate of New York University Law School who speaks Mandarin, provided significant assistance in preparing the workers' motion for sanctions.

Halegua and Berline said they do not seek costs relating to the printing/photocopying of legal cases, exhibits, and other documents in preparing their briefs and in preparation for oral argument.

The plaintiffs, who are now based in China, are suing IPI and its contractor, MCC International Saipan Ltd. Co., and subcontractor, Gold Mantis Construction Decoration (CNMI) LL, over the alleged injuries they suffered during accidents at the worksite of IPI's casino/resort project in Garapan.

The plaintiffs alleged, among other things, that they were forced to work long hours for below minimum wage under extremely dangerous conditions at the casino-resort worksite.

IPI, through counsel, said any wage claims by the plaintiffs are barred because they voluntarily illegally entered the CNMI to work.

Group helps foreign workers register for COVID-19 testing

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The COVID-19 community-based testing was temporarily suspended over the weekend, but that did not stop a group of volunteers from helping foreign workers register to be tested.

Rosanna Ortiz, a volunteer with the group Friends of CWs, helped explain the importance of taking the COVID-19 test, and assisted foreign workers last Saturday in registering for it.

The volunteer group also distributed relief packs to 160 laid-off or furloughed foreign workers, who are not eligible for food stamps.

"We're encouraging people to do COVID-19 testing," Ortiz said. "We are trying to help them register online by getting all their information. Right now, the testing is suspended, but we're letting people know that they will be called as soon as we get the registration done so that they can be scheduled."

"The government is doing a good job controlling this pandemic. …By doing testing, we will be able to make ourselves feel at ease, [and feel] the comfort of [having] nothing to worry about," she added.

The testing, was suspended last weekend to allow for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. to catch up on the numbers, in terms of the tests and the specimens, as well as for the front-liners to be given the much-needed break, especially for Mother's Day.

In an interview, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said that the community-based testing is doing well, with the staff on top of making the process seamless. The governor, once again, thanked the community, the private sector, and the government employees for going out and getting tested.

"We're seeing the numbers, and it's showing good results. The more we do it, the better chances they get for us detecting the COVID-19 here on our islands," he added.

To date, CHCC has collected 2,336 specimens through the COVID-19 community-based testing.

Lawmakers insist on accountability on COVID-19 funds

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives Special Committee on Federal Assistance and Disaster Related Funding demands transparency and accountability for the millions in federal funds that are coming into the Commonwealth.

At a Thursday meeting at the House, the five-member committee talked about an upcoming meeting with Patrick Guerrero, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' authorized representative. Rep. Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero (R-Saipan) stressed the need for accountability.

"We want accountability. People are screaming at us about accountability, and this is money that must be applied according to the respective requirement by the feds. We need to be mindful that we are going to be explaining ourselves to the community if this money is squandered or wasted," he said.

"We've seen [Typhoon] Soudelour. We've seen [Typhoon] Mangkhut. We've seen [Super Typhoon] Yutu and up to now those remain questionable as to expenditure. With this COVID, we need to make sure that it does not repeat itself," Guerrero added.

The lawmakers are looking into being briefed about the COVID-19 operations in place, as well as to being provided with information on three major categories: the issue of hazard pay and overtime, the contracts that have been awarded to date related to the COVID-19 response, and the accounting of all the sources of funds for the COVID-19 response.

Members of the House Special Committee on Federal Assistance and Disaster Related Funding discuss during a meeting last Thursday the need for transparency and accountability for all the federal funding that are coming into the CNMI for its COVID-19 response. IVA MAURIN

At the meeting, Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) wanted the listing of all the contracts the CNMI has entered into for its COVID-19 response, and for what purposes and whether those contracts were competitively bid, sole-sourced, procured through emergency rules, and if they were sole-sourced or procured under the emergency regulations, to be provided with justification.

"I would suggest that we include any funds that we may or may not have received from [the] IPI community benefit fund, whether that's being used, or if the intention is to use that as part of the local match," Sablan added.

Committee chair Rep. Ralph Yumul (R-Saipan) explained in a separate interview that the committee is concerned about the local matching of the federal assistance.

"There are procurement rules for [Federal Emergency Management Agency] and agencies in the U.S. that grant us funding, so in the past we've learned from the disasters, Yutu, a lot of the expenditures were not approved or were kicked back to the CNMI government and that forces us to use our own funds and that's why we're in this predicament," Yumul said. "Anything that has to do with what we're going to spend on the general fund, we need to be accountable for it, so that's something that we're going to look into."

Yumul said that lawmakers want the administration of the funding to be very transparent to people.

2 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality has red-flagged Jeffrey's Beach and Unai Dangkulo beach on Saipan and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

BECQ analyzed samples of nine Saipan east and south recreational beaches last week. ***(PR)***

SPACE FOR RENT
Located at Middle Road corner
Quarter Master, Chalan Laulau
Office – 3,200 sq. ft.
Warehouse – 6,000 sq. ft.
LP GAS WUSHIN
Since1983 Committed to Safety Excellence
Please call us at 322-8733/7415 or send email to
wushin2@pticom.com for more inquiry.

ADVERTISE with us!
• PRINT
• ONLINE
• FB PAID PARTNERSHIP
235-8747

saipantribune.com
Three ways to get your sauce on
Save on fuel. Spend on important stuff.
ENDLESS DATA FOR POSTPAID CUSTOMERS
YOU COULD GET COMPENSATION FROM THE PURDUE PHARMA BANKRUPTCY.
Saipan Tribune
Hafa Adai!
Reyes tops shoreline fishing tourney. PAGE 2
Construction manager was also allegedly trafficking 'ice.' PAGE 3
75¢
Saipan Tribune
THE NMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
LOCAL
ner DEQ director Masga is CUC's new manager for oil

New Tinian hotel looking for restaurant partner

Bridge Investment Group is looking for a company to operate the restaurant inside its planned Tinian Diamond Hotel & Casino.

BIG said the restaurant and bar will have a space of 1,117 square feet indoors, 990 square feet further from outdoor, and comes with the latest modern kitchen applications and a complete set of restaurant tables and chairs.

Tinian Diamond Hotel & Casino will be built at the San Jose Port and is due to open in the fourth quarter of 2020.

BIG is already dubbing the development as the "brightest entertainment resort" that will "feature all the desirable amenities of a world-class casino in a setting of beaches and sea views."

Tinian Diamond Hotel will feature 17 designated rooms and seaview suites just a short walk from the casino building.

BIG is also looking to launch the inter-island ferry *Sand Diamond* in the third quarter of 2020. It will be able to carry up to 298 passengers and 32 vehicles daily between Tinian and Saipan.

The *Sand Diamond* was named during a ceremony attended by members of the Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation in Guangdong Province, China last year.

Expressions of interest for the restaurant partnership with BIG for the Tinian Diamond Hotel & Casino should be made in writing and emailed to info@tiniandiamondcasino.com. ***(Chevy Alipio)***

Lions Club donates 123 care packages

The Saipan Fil-American Lions Club recently donated 123 care packages to residents of Capital Hill, Tanapag, and San Roque.

The care packages included 15-lb bags of Calrose rice, a package of butane, four packs of noodles, and canned goods.

"These may be a small amount but we believe it would be of help to our community members, especially in this time, knowing that funding is a huge challenge for all of us," said club president Eden Mercado. She credited the help of donors from Guam and Saipan for the care packages. Among the donors were Arman Amog, Lyn Reyes of Sapphire Ent. Inc., Mila Pellegrino of Saipan Ice & Water Co. Inc., Fe Valencia-Ovalles of Guam Marianas Training Center, Lion Naty Bui of Genpro International, Inc., TSL Foundation, second vice district governor-elect Lion Loisa Cabuhat, past district governors Linda Tolan and Rey Acierto, Felis Amor Relosma, Taro Leaf Inc., and anonymous donors.

"We saw the need and we are grateful to our partners who are always willing to help us and to our members who are serving, even knowing there is a risk in going out at this time," said vice president Socorro Huliganga.

To donate or to become partners of the club, contact Mercando at 788-2416 or secretary Mario Mayuga at 285-1021. Learn more about the Lions check their website www.lionsclubs.org. ***(Chevy Alipio)***

Members of the Saipan Fil-American Lions Club hold up the bags of rice that were part of the 123 care packages they handed out to residents of Capital Hill, Tanapag, and San Roque.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

GUAM

From Page 1

COVID-19 Task Force statement, the 67-year-old male is currently isolated at the Alternative Care Site at Kanoa Resort in Susupe. The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has already initiated contact tracing for his close contacts, including other passengers who were with him on the flight.

According to press secretary Kevin Bautista, there is no report that the individual had been tested before traveling to the CNMI. He added that the CNMI only has control over the procedures and protocol that are being done on island.

"Nevertheless, he was identified through our airport surveillance, which speaks to the CNMI's ability to track down a positive case, isolate it, and initiate contact tracing for further containment," said Bautista.

Additionally, Bautista pointed out that the CNMI is not authorized to stop flights from coming in. Only the Federal Aviation Administration can stop any flights or if the airline voluntarily suspends flights. United Airlines, which provides the flights between Guam and Saipan, had suspended its flights in April.

"The governor's request to United [Airlines] to suspend flights in April was honored by the airline and [was] a result of their ability to work together," said Bautista.

At the end of the day, Bautista said, only the federal government controls flights, but airport surveillance was already in place at the Saipan airport since January.

"With the increased medical capacity that Governor Torres and Esther Muña, CHCC chief executive officer, have worked on collaboratively for the CNMI, we're confident that the CNMI will keep its curve flat," said Bautista.

Mass testing resumption

Bautista said the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force will be announcing when the community-based testing at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport will be resuming.

The announcement last Thursday said that the mass testing will only be suspended from May 8, 2020, through May 10, 2020. It was stopped last Friday to allow CHC staff to release test results in a timely matter.

"We have a large volume of specimens, and we want to make sure everyone who has gone through the testing gets their results," he said.

As of May 7, the CNMI has tested 2,336 individuals after nine days.

"We intend to keep our curve flat, as compared to other parts in our region," said Bautista. "We continue to conduct surveillance and isolation measures if needed to contain the virus and help stop the spread."

The CNMI now has a total of 16 positive cases, with 12 recoveries and two deaths.

COVID-19 in Guam

The Department of Public Health and Social Services tested 17 individuals for COVID-19 last May 9, with zero positive results. To date, there have been 151 positive COVID-19 cases in Guam, with five deaths and 124 released from isolation.

IPI

From Page 1

with uncontested payable accounts in compliance with CCC's order last Jan. 30.

Mafnas had first asked for an executive session to answer the question, which had been raised by then-CCC commissioner Joe Reyes and then-CCC executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero, but CCC chair Juan Sablan insisted that financial matters may now be discussed publicly, unlike before. Mafnas then stated that IPI did comply with the CCC order to settle the uncontested payable accounts. Only the claims of former contractors Pacific Rim Land Development LLC and U.S.A. Fanter Corp. have not been paid because of their pending lawsuits against IPI in federal court.

Deleon Guerrero then asked IPI to provide CCC with a complete list of the uncontested payable accounts. "Thank you for paying the vendors," Deleon Guerrero told IPI officers.

The total amount paid to IPI's vendors was not disclosed at the meeting.

At the Jan. 30, 2020, CCC board meeting, CCC ordered IPI to settle in full within 30 days from that day any uncontested account payable with a licensed vendor or private entity that were 90 days or more due. Sablan and other commissioners adopted the order despite some vendors saying in an earlier meeting that the draft of the order had no teeth, considering it does not mention any penalty against IPI.

CCC adopted the order after many vendors publicly complained at meetings with the commission that they have not received any payment from IPI.

Last Dec. 19, representatives of many vendors and former IPI contractors appealed to CCC to take action against IPI, whom they accused of engaging in a pattern and practice of breaching contracts and dishonoring obligations to licensed professionals in the CNMI. The vendors were allegedly collectively owed $35 million.

SOME

From Page 1

ing this news. Finally, it was a start for us to receive the salaries we were owed. As you know, we haven't been paid since the government shut down all non-essential departments," the individual said. The teacher added that colleagues experienced the same thing. They tried to give it time but, as of Saturday, they still had not received anything.

"It's saddening. I know many are suffering, including us. Mother's Day is coming up and we won't even get to prepare even a small meal for our families. I hope we receive this payment soon. We've waiting too long, we deserve it," the teacher said.

Saipan Tribune tried to obtain comments from Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada yesterday but he was unavailable to answer questions.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, over 800 PSS teachers and personnel were reportedly paid their salaries for pay period 8 after PSS received over $1 million from the CNMI government last Thursday. Ada had said that teachers and personnel were paid 80 hours. Pay period 8 was the first full missed payroll after the government shut down as a result of COVID-19.

PSS still owes its locally funded employees two pay periods, 9 and 10. However, PSS is expecting to pay off this remaining amount once it receives the money allotted to PSS under the CARES Act.

Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig said last Thursday that $1.3 million was transferred to PSS last Wednesday to cover the last two pay periods.

Despite the shortage of funds, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said he worked with the Department of Finance to leverage existing local resources to cover PSS salaries.

PSS

From Page 1

CARES Act Education Stabilization Funds between PSS and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres. After recalculation, funding for public schools increased from $22.4 million to $23.2 million. Funds provided to the Governor for Emergency Education Relief were cut from $5.6 million to $4.8 million.

"This is good news for teachers, staff, and students at PSS," Sablan said.

In the CARES Act Congress set aside up to $154 million for schools in the CNMI, American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands—the so-called "outlying areas." But the Department of Education has been slow to distribute the money. States began receiving their Education Stabilization Fund grants two weeks ago.

"The Trump administration, also, decided to give the governor some of the money that Congress intended to go to our schools," Sablan said. "That means PSS is still short $2.6 million of the amount the Commonwealth budgeted for this year and the governor agreed in signing the [fiscal year 2020] Appropriations Act."

The 2020 Appropriation law mandated $37.7 million for PSS, but the Commonwealth has only paid out $11.9 million, leaving an unpaid balance of $25.8 million. As a result, teachers and staff have had their pay cut and been furloughed, Sablan said.

"As I wrote yesterday to Gov. Torres, he should turn over all the money—now, $4.8 million—he was given and make PSS whole. Teachers and staff need to be paid," Sablan said. "And we have to help Marianas schools deliver online education and other services to our students during the coronavirus crisis."

Sablan previously asked the governor to use some of the $36 million the Commonwealth government received in direct aid from the CARES Act to help pay for online learning.

Recalculation

In a phone call Thursday, Sablan thanked Frank Brogan, assistant secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education at the Department of Education, for taking a second look at the original distribution of the CARES Act money between PSS and the governor and for the resulting increase to PSS.

"With teachers' pay cut and furloughed during the pandemic, the Public School System needs every penny it can get," Sablan told Brogan.

He also asked Brogan to expedite the paperwork necessary to get the CARES Act money to PSS, now that amounts have been allocated and announced.

Looking ahead to CARES II

The Marianas delegate informed congressional leadership, before he left Washington last week, that further federal funding for education needs to be a priority in CARES II, the next legislative response to the health and economic impacts of the coronavirus, currently being negotiated.

"If the governor hands over his money to PSS, that will take care of this fiscal year," Sablan said. "But Commonwealth revenues are not likely to recover before the next school year begins. More federal relief will be needed, so teachers and staff get paid and students can continue learning.

Sablan is chairman of the House Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education with responsibility for education issues nationwide. ***(PR)***

CNMI Judiciary resumes limited court operations

In a new order on May 8, 2020, the CNMI Supreme Court said that the CNMI Judiciary's courthouses and facilities will be open on a limited basis through July 2.

These courthouses include the Guma' Hustisia in Susupe, Saipan; Kotten Tinian in San Jose, Tinian; and Centron Hustisia in Sinapalo, Rota.

The Supreme Court order, No. 2020-ADM-0010- MSC, concerning the Judiciary's services for the public, says the evolving circumstances surrounding COVID-19 "and the increase in demand for judicial services warrant resuming particular services to the public."

Judiciary employees have been and continue to work within the courthouses and facilities on a limited basis. Others have been directed to telework at designated sites.

Under the new order, the high court stressed the need to use remote communication technologies such as teleconference and video conference capabilities and electronic filing for judicial operations. It indicated that the courthouses are equipped with technology accessible by litigants, including pro se litigants who do not have access to technology. Access to these services may be arranged in advance of the hearing.

The Supreme Court's third quarter oral arguments from Aug. 17-28, 2020, will proceed as scheduled. All electronic filing and service deadlines and procedures remain in effect.

Superior Court actions and matters scheduled between today, May 11, and Thursday, July 2 may be heard telephonically or by video conference where practicable. The Superior Court may also schedule proceedings requiring in-person appearances in the courthouses at the discretion of the judge presiding over the matter. All jury trials are postponed to after July 2. Bench trials may be heard where practicable.

The high court also outlined a number of provisions for other Judiciary operations. The Cashier's Office under Budget & Finance will resume business hours on a limited basis. The Cashier's Office will not be open on holidays or scheduled austerity Fridays.

Submissions of or requests for audio or written transcripts, document processing, or record certification may be submitted by email to Superior.Court@NMIJudiciary.com or by U.S. registered mail to CNMI Superior Court, P.O. Box 500307 Saipan, MP 96950. If electronic or remote submission or review of documents is not practicable, persons may schedule an appointment by contacting (670) 236-9703 or by email at Superior.Court@NMIJudiciary.com. ***(PR)***

DOI grant application deadline extended

The U.S. Department of the Interior's grant application deadline for the Technical Assistance Program, the Maintenance Assistance Program, and the Coral Reef and Natural Resources Initiative will be extended for an additional 30 days to June 1, 2020.

"Given the challenges caused by the current global coronavirus pandemic, [this extension will give] insular area governments and non-profit organizations additional time to submit requests," said Assistant Secretary, Insular and International Affairs, Douglas W. Domenech.

Applications for FY 2020 TAP, MAP, and CRNR funding, as first announced in November 2019, may be submitted by insular government entities, educational institutions, or non-profit organizations whose grant proposals will directly benefit American Samoa, Guam, the CNMI, and the U.S. Virgin Islands or the Freely Associated States, which are the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and Palau. Complete instructions on how to apply for these discretionary financial assistance programs as provided through the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs may be found at: https://www.doi.gov/oia/financial-assistance. ***(PR)***

Naraja graduates from Boise State

BOISE, Idaho—Thomasa Naraja of Saipan graduated with an Accountancy, MS from Boise State University on May 9.

Naraja was among nearly 2,800 students eligible for degrees. Boise State celebrated their achievements with the university's first-ever virtual commencement ceremony on May 9.

Watch the full commencement ceremony, along with shout-out videos from students and faculty, at boisestate.edu/commencement.

A public metropolitan research university with nearly 28,000 students, Boise Stat is located in Idaho's capital city. Learn more at BoiseState.edu. ***(PR)***

MedPharm responds to search

The warrant that was executed at our warehouse location in Guam and on Saipan relates to a product called SDS Blocker.

The product was marketed and sold to MedPharm as an over-the-counter item by a local Guam distributor. We have voluntarily removed the product from our inventory.

"We take these matters very seriously and we are cooperating fully with all authorities," said Rene H. Ramos, president of MedPharm, Inc. "Once we were informed by the federal authorities that the product supplied by a local distributor did not meet federal standards, we immediately took action and removed the product from our inventory. This is an isolated event specifically related to the sale of the SDS Blocker product we purchased locally and sold via our wholesale company. The warrant was not related to any other items or operations involving our company. The prescription drugs dispensed in all our pharmacies are legitimate, U.S. sourced and manufactured under strict [Food and Drug Administration] regulatory compliance."

MedPharm is a leading supplier, wholesaler, and distributor of quality healthcare products including medical equipment and supplies, dental equipment and supplies, radiological, laboratory equipment and supplies as well as pharmaceutical and Biomed Engineering services to the South Pacific islands including Guam, Saipan, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Palau, Fiji, and Western and American Samoa.

For more information, contact Charles McDonald at 1 (671) 683-8886 or via email at guamlawyer@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Eric Ignacio Camacho Sablan, Petitioner, Vs. Mananad Swan Sablan, Respondent,

FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 19-0536

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 506273 CK Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 14th day of April, 2020

/s/ Clerk of Court

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS
Tel: (670) 234-3751 • Website: www.dpl.gov.mp • Email: dpl@dpl.gov.mp
Facebook Address: facebook.com/DPLCNMI

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public land in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot 182 E 01 containing an area of approximately 4,545 square meters, more or less, situated in Lower Base, Saipan. A map showing the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands and website www.dpl.gov.mp for inspection.
ii. The prospective lessee is Triple Star International Corporation. The lists of officers for Triple Star International Corporation are Wei Gang Xiong, as President, Zhang Qing, as Corporate Secretary.
iii. The proposed lease is compliant with DPL regulations and was negotiated by the officers and directors of Triple Star International Corporation, mainly Wei Gang Xiong.
iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of the providing recycling services that collect, recycle, and market scrap materials, and the retail sale of electronics and appliances.

The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term of the lease agreement is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property plus the applicable percentage of Business Gross Receipts in DPL's regulation.

v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; 1st floor of the De'Ana Commercial Building, Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian. A copy will also be available online at www.dpl.gov.mp
vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Lower Base, Saipan.
vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before May 26, 2020 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIAN I MAPROPONI NA ATKILON TÅNU´ PUPBLIKU

Gi sigun Seksiona 106 (b) gi Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku mannåå'i guini nutisia put i intensiona para u atkila finitmi na tanu' pupbliku giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Mariånas. Maseha håyi na pattida ni intirisao gi hålum heneråt pupbliku siña muna'hålum upiñon, imfotmasion, pat testimoniun kinontra gi tinahguin prinoponi siha para i atkilon nu i tanu' pupbliku. Kumu mapribeni mås mo'na ginin i Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i tinattitiyi pettanesin na imfotmasion manisisita para u mapupblika.

i. I maproponi na atkilon tanu' pupbliku madiskribi kumu Lot 182 E 01 ni konsisisti kåsi 4,545 square meters, mås pat menus, ni gaigi gi Lower Base, iya Saipan. I kopian måpa nu i påttin i lugåt managuaha gi ufisinan Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku yan website gi www.dpl.gov.mp para inspeksion.
ii. I "prospective lessee" i "Triple Star International Corporation". I listan i ufisiåt siha para i Triple Star International Corporation si Wei Gang Xiong, kumu Presidenti, Zhang Qing, kumu Sekritåriun "Corporate."
iii. I maproponi na atkilon ha tattiyi i regulasion DPL siha yan manegosiu ginin i ufisiåt yan direktot i Triple Star International Corporation, mayutmentu si Wei Gang Xiong.
iv. I lessee debi na u usa i lugåt para atyu na rason na para u pribeniyi "recycling" na sitbisiu ni ha rikohi, "recycle," yan bendi i mansopbla na matiriåt siha, yan para u fambendi "electronics" yan "appliances."

I tema nu i maproponi na kontråtan atkilon sa bentisingku (25) åñus na tiempu.

I maproponi na atkilu gi kada' såkkan gi durântin i teman i kontråtan atkilon mapega gi pusentu nu i bålin "appraised fair market" i propiedåt yan i propiu na pusentun i Risibun Hina'halum Bisnis gi halum regulasion i DPL.

v. I kopian nu i maproponi na Kontråtan Atkilon siña machuli' gi ufisinan i Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku, ni gaigi gi sigundu (2nd) na bibiendan i Joeten Dandan Commercial Building iya Dandan, Saipan, primet (1st) na bibiendan i De'Ana Commercial Building, iya Songsong Village, Luta; pat i primet (1st) na bibiendan i Kings Commercial Building, giya Tini'an. I kopia debi lokkui' na managuaha online gi www.dpl.gov.mp
vi. I Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku tåya marisibi ni håfa na tinahguin inofresi siha ni para u ma'atkila i suhetu na tanu' pupbliku gi Lower Base, Saipan.
vii. I Sekritårian Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku ha aksesepta tinigi' upiñon, imfotmasion, testimoniun kinontra pat tinahguin prinoponi siha ginin i manintirisåo na pattida siha gi pat åntis di May 26, 2020 gi ufisinan Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha ni gaigi giya Sa'ipan, Luta pat Tini'an.

ARONGORONG REEL POMMWOL ATKKILÓÓNOL FALUWEER TOULAP

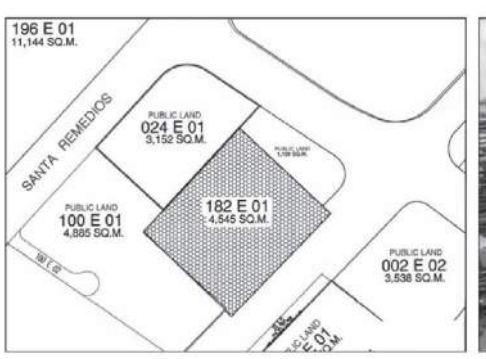
Sángi Tálil 106 (b) reel Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap e attotoowow arongorong reel igha re mángemángil rebwe atkkilaay akkááw faluweer toulap llól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúw kka Efáng llól Marianas. Schóó kka re mwuschel isiisilong kkapas, data, views, ngáre angiingi reel pommwol atkkilóónol faluweer toulap. Eyoor sángi Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, arongorongol ikka e amwirimwiritiw ebwe akkatééwow.

i. Faluweer toulap iye rebwe atkkilaay e bwáálo bwe Lot 182 E 01 ebwe bwáá bwe 4,545 reel square meters, elapeló ngáre eghus, iye e lo Lower Base, Seipél. Eyoor pappidil falúw yeel me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap me website www.dpl.gov.mp
ngáre u mwuschel amwuri.
ii. Schóól Atkkilóón nge Triple Star International Corporation. Ikkal list-al "officers" me Triple Star International Corporation nge Wei Gang Xiong, bwe "President", Zhang Qing, Bwe "Corporate Secretary".
iii. Pommwol Atkkilóón nge e angúúngú ngáli mwóghutughutúl DPL me e abwungubwung sángi "officers" me "directors-il" Triple Star International Corporation, i Wei Gang Xiong.
iv. Schóól Atkkilóón ebwe yááyá falúw bwulul ebwe ayoorai angaangil "recycling" iye ebwe bweibwogh, "recycle", me "market scrap materials", me akkaméélól "electronics" me "appliances".

Pommwol abwungubwungúl Atkkilóón nge ruweigh me limoow ráágh.

Pommwol atkkilóónol ghal ráágh nge e lo reel percentage sángi appraised fair market value reel falúw ebwal schuulong applicable percentage reel Business Gross Receipts llól mwóghutughutúl DPL.

v. Pappidil pommwol abwungubwungúl Atkkilóón emmwel ubwe bweibwogh mereel Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap, iye e lo 2nd floor reel Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Seipél; 1st floor reel De'Ana Commercial Building, apilómwol Songsong, me Luuta; ngáre 1st floor reel Kings Commercial Building, Tchiliyól. Ebwal yoor pappidil mille online me www.dpl.gov.mp
vi. Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap rese bweibwogh pommw iye re siiweli ngáli Atkkilóón iye e lo weiláng reel faluweer toulap me Lower Base, Seipél.
vii. Sekkretóóriyal Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap emmwelil bweibwogh ischil mángemáng, views, angii ngáre pommw iye re siiweli sángi schóó kka re mwuschel wóól ngáre mmwali May 26, 2020 me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap me Seipél, Luuta, ngáre Tchiliyól.



Finance denounces illegal lottery gaming on social media

The Department of Finance has received information that certain individuals have been organizing illegal lottery games using Facebook.

The Department of Finance is responsible for licensing persons engaged in the operation of public lotteries and supervising and administering the operation of any lotteries in the Commonwealth.

A lottery is a gambling scheme in which: (a) players pay or agree to pay something of value for a chance represented by numbers; (b) winning chances are to be determined by a drawing or by some other method based on an element of chance; and (c) holders of the winning chances are to receive something of value.

No persons other than those licensed by the Department of Finance may operate or be engaged in the operation of a lottery and it is illegal for any person to sell, buy, or transfer in exchange for anything of value, any ticket or share of any lottery, which is not authorized by the Department of Finance. Any person found to be in violation of the law may be imprisoned for a period of up to five years or be fined up to $5,000 or both.

If you encounter a group that you think is suspicious or may be hosting illegal gambling on social media, contact the Department of Finance at 664-1100 or the Office of the Attorney General at 237-7500. ***(PR)***

Military members can now file to naturalize online

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced yesterday that U.S. service members and veterans can now file Form N-400, Application for Naturalization, online.

Online filing allows aliens to submit forms electronically, check the status of their case and receive notices from USCIS. USCIS is using innovation and technology to meet the needs of applicants, petitioners, and employees. Regardless of the paper or electronic format of an application or petition, USCIS is committed to ensuring a secure and efficient process for all.

"We're excited to offer our service men and women the convenience of filing their naturalization application online," said USCIS Deputy Director for Policy Joseph Edlow. "USCIS has always been committed to supporting the immigration needs of those who currently serve or previously served the United States in the armed forces. Citizenship is the one of the distinct privileges our nation bestows and we are proud to naturalize those who put their lives on the line for our country."

Those currently serving or who have served in the armed forces may be eligible to apply for naturalization under special provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act. Under these special provisions, the naturalization application fee is waived for military members and veterans, as are some of the requirements. Until now, U.S. service members and veterans filed a paper Form N-400. Provisions of the law extend some immigration benefits to the family member of a service member. Please see our website for additional information.

Further, for biometrics requirements, USCIS may use previously submitted biometrics if available. If U.S. service members are stationed outside the United States, they may submit two properly completed FD-258 fingerprint cards and two passport-style photos taken by the military police or officials with the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. embassy or U.S. consulate.

Individuals can file 10 USCIS forms online:

- Form AR-11, Alien's Change of Address Card
- Form G-639, Freedom of Information/Privacy Act Request
- Form I-90, Application to Replace Permanent Resident Card
- Form I-130, Petition for Alien Relative
- Form I-539, Application to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status (Form I-539 is the first online application filing that uses USCIS' eProcessing strategy. Check your eligibility for online filing of this form at uscis.gov/i539online.)
- Form N-336, Request for a Hearing on a Decision in Naturalization Proceedings (Under Section 336 of the INA)
- Form N-400, Application for Naturalization
- Form N-565, Application for Replacement Naturalization/Citizenship Document
- Form N-600, Application for Certificate of Citizenship
- Form N-600K, Application for Citizenship and Issuance of Certificate Under Section 322
- To file these forms online, individuals must first create a USCIS online account atmyaccount.uscis.dhs.gov. This free account allows them to:
- Submit and track the status of their forms;
- Pay their fees;
- Track the status of their case;
- Communicate with USCIS through a secure inbox; and
- Respond to requests for evidence.

USCIS still accepts the latest paper version of all forms by mail.

To better serve the U.S. military, USCIS offers a toll-free military help line, 877-CIS-4MIL (877-247-4645, TTY: 800-877-8339) and e-mail address at militaryinfo@uscis.dhs.gov exclusively for current members of the military and their families, as well as veterans. Representatives are available to answer calls Monday through Friday from 8am to 4pm Central, excluding federal holidays.

Service members and their families stationed in the U.S. or overseas may access the help line using the toll-free number through their base telephone operator or using the Defense Switched Network. ***(USCIS)***

MCATS now available in response to COVID-19

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. COVID-19 Health Tent has now transitioned into the Medical Care and Treatment Site on the CHCC upper level.

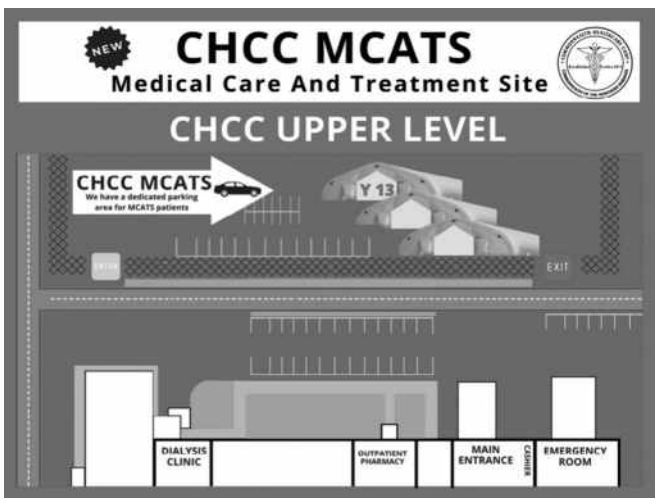
The CHCC COVID-19 Tent operations, in front of the upper level CHCC Outpatient Pharmacy, is now at the MCATS effective last Saturday, May 9, 2020. The MCATS Tent will be open Monday to Sunday (8am-5pm). Patients can register and wait in MCATS Tent #13 for the following:

- Individuals experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or are concerned about COVID-19 infection
- Individuals exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 during the screening process before going to their appointment (e.g. Oncology, Dialysis)
- Identified individuals by the Contact Tracing Team
- Clinical evaluation for work clearance. This does not include testing for COVID-19, unless clinically necessary
- IgG/IgM testing for interested first responders
- Other COVID-19 related functions as needed

During the patient examination, a medical provider will determine if the patient has COVID-19 symptoms and provide care as needed or refer to appropriate location/facility.

Parking at the MCATS will be available for use by patients.

Patients that need immediate/emergency medical attention may proceed to the CHCC Emergency Room as normal.



Stay at home, stop the spread

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Pick up food through drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options.
- Only one healthy adult from the household should run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action. See https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklist-household-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene:

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic:

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

❏ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

❏ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

❏ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

❏ Limiting visitors

To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday 7am-7pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1542/1672/1352/1854. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am-8pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday 7:30am-4:30pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990. ***(PR)***

THINGS TO KNOW

As of May 10, 2020. All information may change without prior notice. For corrections and additions to this list, send an email to editor@saipantribune.com or call 235-6397 or 235-2440.

How Trump admin is supporting the CNMI

The Trump administration outlines how it is supporting the people of the CNMI in this time of the COVID-19 pandemic. For details, click on link at www.saipantribune.com.

USDA outlines telehealth service changes

The U.S. Department of Agriculture issues a summary of key service changes to increase the use of telehealth in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These measures include allowing rural health clinics and federally qualified health centers to serve as "distant site" providers, increasing the types of services that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services can deliver via telehealth, and allowing certain telehealth services to be delivered to Medicare recipients by phone. For details, go to https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDARD/bulletins/289d418.

USDA RD takes steps to help

USDA Rural Development has taken a number of immediate actions to help rural residents, businesses and communities affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. Rural Development will keep our customers, partners, and stakeholders continuously updated as more actions are taken to better serve rural America. Visit www.rd.usda.gov/coronavirus for more information. Or click on https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDARD/bulletins/2894700.

SBA Fact Sheet

The U.S. Small Business Administration has issued a "Fact Sheet for the CNMI" about the Paycheck Protection Program and Economic Injury Disaster Loans. Read it by clicking on the link at www.saipantribune.com.

Commerce Department in operation

The CNMI Department of Commerce will continue to provide services to the CNMI business community via means of teleworking.

For direct support and services, the CNMI is advised to contact the support team via the department's website at info@commerce.gov.mp and indicate the attention to the respective division or section for the appropriate services. See DOC advisory at the link at www.saipantribune.com.

FBI alert vs online scams

FBI issue an alert to the public to be on the lookout for scams that exploit the current COVID-19 pandemic. See FBI advisory at the link on www.saipantribune.com.

Process for mass testing

Mass testing for COVID-19 is ongoing at the Saipan International Airport. The test is free. People interested in being tested for COVID-19 can request for an appointment for specimen collection on the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. website at https://chcc.gov.mp/covid19testing.php or over the phone through the COVID-19 Info Line. For more information, see link at www.saipantribune.com.

LIMITED SERVICES RESUME

Settlement Fund

The Settlement Fund office is now open on a limited basis to provide services to members via a walk-up window. Note that social distancing will be strictly enforced and we require that members wear a mask in order to be assisted.

In addition, due to the scarcity of available notaries public at this time, the submission of the Annuity Recipient Information Update form, or SF-200, is extended until June 15, 2020. For current Saipan residents, you may have the form witnessed by staff at the Settlement Fund office.

The Settlement Fund office continues to operate from 8am to 12pm daily, except for holidays, until further notice. Fund staff remain available to assist members by phone, fax, and email—Tel: (670) 322-3863; fax: (670) 664-8080; email: info@nmisf.com. ***(PR)***

DPS Firearms and Records

The CNMI Department of Public Safety Firearms and Records office will be open to serve the community beginning today, May 11, 2020. Office hours are Monday – Thursday: from 9am to 3pm for walk-in services.

All individuals who are looking to visit the Firearms and Records office to avail of the services are required to wear a mask and maintain the standard 6-feet distance when lining up outside the office, as the office can only allow one person inside at a time.

We would like to kindly remind individuals that the BMV cashiers window will be closed. All payments for police reports, renewals, and etc. must be made at the CNMI Treasury on Capital Hill, or at Revenue and Taxation in Dandan before the Firearms and Records office is able to release updated documents and/or reports.

For all inquiries related to the DPS Firearms and Records office, call 664-9072. ***(PR)***

DPS Highway Safety Office

The CNMI Department of Public Safety Highway Safety Office will be open to serve the community beginning today, May 11, 2020. Office hours are

Monday-Thursday (except holidays), from 9am to 12pm for walk-in services.

All individuals who are looking to visit the HSO office to avail of the services, including the Child Restraint Purchase Assistance Program, are required to wear a mask and maintain the standard 6-feet distance when lining up outside the office, as the office can only allow one person inside at a time.

For all inquiries related to the HSO, call 664-9121, 664-9125, or 664-9131. ***(PR)***

Northern Marianas Housing Corp.

Due to the COVID19 pandemic, the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. is taking steps to minimize the spread the COVID-19. Therefore, this is to inform all Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program Participants that NMHC will be making a direct deposit on all utility reimbursement payment checks to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp./landlord for the months of June and July 2020 for the participants.

Furthermore, NMHC will be revising the Housing Choice Voucher Program Administrative Plan to include that all URP will be directly deposited to the utility company or landlord.

If you should have any questions or concerns, email the PHD manager at phdmanager@nmhcgov.net or call the NMHC offices at (670) 532-9410 (Rota), (670) 433-9213 (Tinian); or fax: (670) 532-9441 Fax: (670) 433-3690. ***(PR)***

Joeten-Kiyu Public Library

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will be providing the following limited services to the public effective today, May 11, 2020, from 9:30am to 12:30pm (time may be subject to change):

1. Free Wi-Fi access point at Joeten-Kiyu Public Library parking lot for public available during library hours of operation. Password for access to free Wi-Fi will be issued one per vehicle.

2. E-Book access: Library staff will provide open eBooks, which is a free e-book service.

3. Free online community resources with links to databases.

4. Ask a Librarian: Wherein library staff provide answers to general inquiries regarding library services and/or use information resources to help others meet particular information needs.

Contact (670) 235-7322/23 (READ) in order to avail of the free public services.

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library facility remains temporarily closed to the public. All library materials due during this period of public onsite closure will be waived. The library recommends that patrons who have overdue materials to hold onto such materials until such time as the library is fully open to the public. ***(PR)***

DOL provides update on supporting documents for PUA

On May 7, 2020, the CNMI Department of Labor provided a list of general questions and answers regarding the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation programs. CNMI DOL continues to work with the U.S. Department of Labor on implementation, so information may be subject to change.

CNMI DOL received valid concerns regarding the necessary supporting documents. Due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, many local and federal government offices are closed or partially closed, including the Social Security Office and other CNMI agencies issuing government IDs. Additionally, CNMI DOL recognizes the associated costs and difficulties in obtaining such identification during these extenuating circumstances.

"Our goal is to serve you. In an effort to streamline the application process and accommodate the public during these very stressful times, the CNMI Department of Labor will not require copies of Social Security cards to be submitted with their PUA applications. Additionally, the department will work with individuals who have expired IDs and are unable to renew," said Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente.

If you have general questions regarding the PUA and FPUC programs, you may call any of the phone numbers listed below between the hours of 8am and 12pm, Monday to Friday. Due to high volume of calls, your call may not get connected. If you cannot get through the line, try again or email info@puamarianas.com. Do not send personal or sensitive information via email as it is not secure.

The CNMI DOL phone numbers for PUA / FPUC questions are 670-989-9090, 670-989-9084, 670-989-9081, 670-989-9089, 670-989-9083, and 670-989-9080. Note that these numbers are subject to change and may be reassigned to certain PUA/FPUC functions after implementation, such as processing appeals or reporting fraud. For the latest contact information and guidance, visit the website at marianaslabor.net. ***(PR)***

DRIVE-THRU FOOD STAMPS

Cars line up during the Nutrition Assistance Program's drive-thru distribution of food stamp benefits last week at its office in As Lito. The drive-thru system is being implemented in compliance with social distancing directives. KRIZEL TUAZON

FAQs on Group Health & Life Insurance Trust Fund

Question: Will employees continue to have health and life insurance coverage during furlough or termination?

Answer: Employees eligible for GHLI must work at least 20 hours a week. GHLI coverage will terminate 30 days after the effective date of furlough or termination of employment if the entire premium for coverage is paid.

Q. What options do furloughed or terminated employees have for health insurance coverage following separation from employment?

A. Separated employees may choose to apply for Medicaid upon termination of health insurance.

Q. Can employees reapply when they return to work after?

A. Yes, as long as the employee returns to work at least 20 hours a week. Following resumption of employment, the employee will have 30 days to apply for health insurance and 60 days for life insurance.

Q. Can my retired/actively employed spouse add me to their health insurance if I was furloughed or terminated?

A. Yes, this would be considered a "qualifying event." An Enrollment/Change form would need to be completed and submitted to Pacifica Insurance with a copy of the termination or furlough letter and documents required on the form. The Enrollment/Change form needs to be submitted within 30 days of being terminated. If you were enrolled as a dependent and the subscriber has been terminated, you may enroll yourself and your eligible dependents who were previously enrolled and lost coverage if you as a dependent are eligible to be enrolled in the Government health plan as either an Active Employee or Retiree. You must submit an enrollment form within 30 days of losing coverage.

Q. Will Aetna cover the cost of COVID-19 testing for members?

A. Aetna is waiving member cost-sharing for diagnostic testing related to COVID-19. This policy covers the cost of a physician-ordered test and the office, clinic or emergency room visit that results in the administration of or order for a COVID-19 test. The test can be done by any approved laboratory. Per guidance from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the Department of Labor and the Department of the Treasury, the GHLI health plans must cover serological (antibody) testing with no cost- sharing.

Q. Will Aetna cover the cost of COVID-19 treatment for its members?

A. Aetna will waive member cost-sharing for inpatient admissions for treatment of COVID-19 or health complications associated with COVID-19. This policy is effective immediately for any such admission through June 1, 2020.

Q. Is Telemedicine covered?

A. From March 6, 2020 through June 4, 2020, Aetna is covering telemedicine visits at no cost for all GHLI members seeking visits for any reason. Aetna members should use telemedicine as their first line of defense in order to limit potential exposure in physician offices.

Q. What resources are available to me by Aetna?

■ GHLI members have access to our Employee Assistance Program and iConnectYou mobile app, which provides 24/7 access to clinical counselors for personalized, telephonic counseling support for stress and anxiety. To access our EAP, members may download the iConnectYou app and enter "AetnaGuam" country code, enabling you to then connect via toll free local phone numbers, video, online chat or SMS. Members can also access the EAP by calling the number on the back of their member ID card.

■ Aetna has expanded access to our free 24-Hour Nurse Line to include all of our members.

■ Through existing care management programs, we're proactively reaching out to members most at-risk for COVID-19. Care managers walk members through what they can do to protect themselves, where to get information on the virus, and where to go to get tested.

■ We're offering free access to myStrength, our highly interactive, personalized app that helps address depression, anxiety, stress, and more.

■ We launched the Remote working & social distancing support resource hub on our website, available publicly at aetnainternational.com. It offers comprehensive support to help you find ways to boost and protect your mental and emotional well-being, and much more.

Questions regarding Health and Life Insurance coverage can be emailed to GHLI@dof.gov.mp. Forms can be found at finance.gov.mp in the forms section. To email Aetna (Health Insurance), contact Francine@pacificains.com and to contact IAC (Life Insurance), email dbarcinas@apiacnmi.com. ***(PR)***

Source: Aetna Insurance

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXX, Issue No. 92

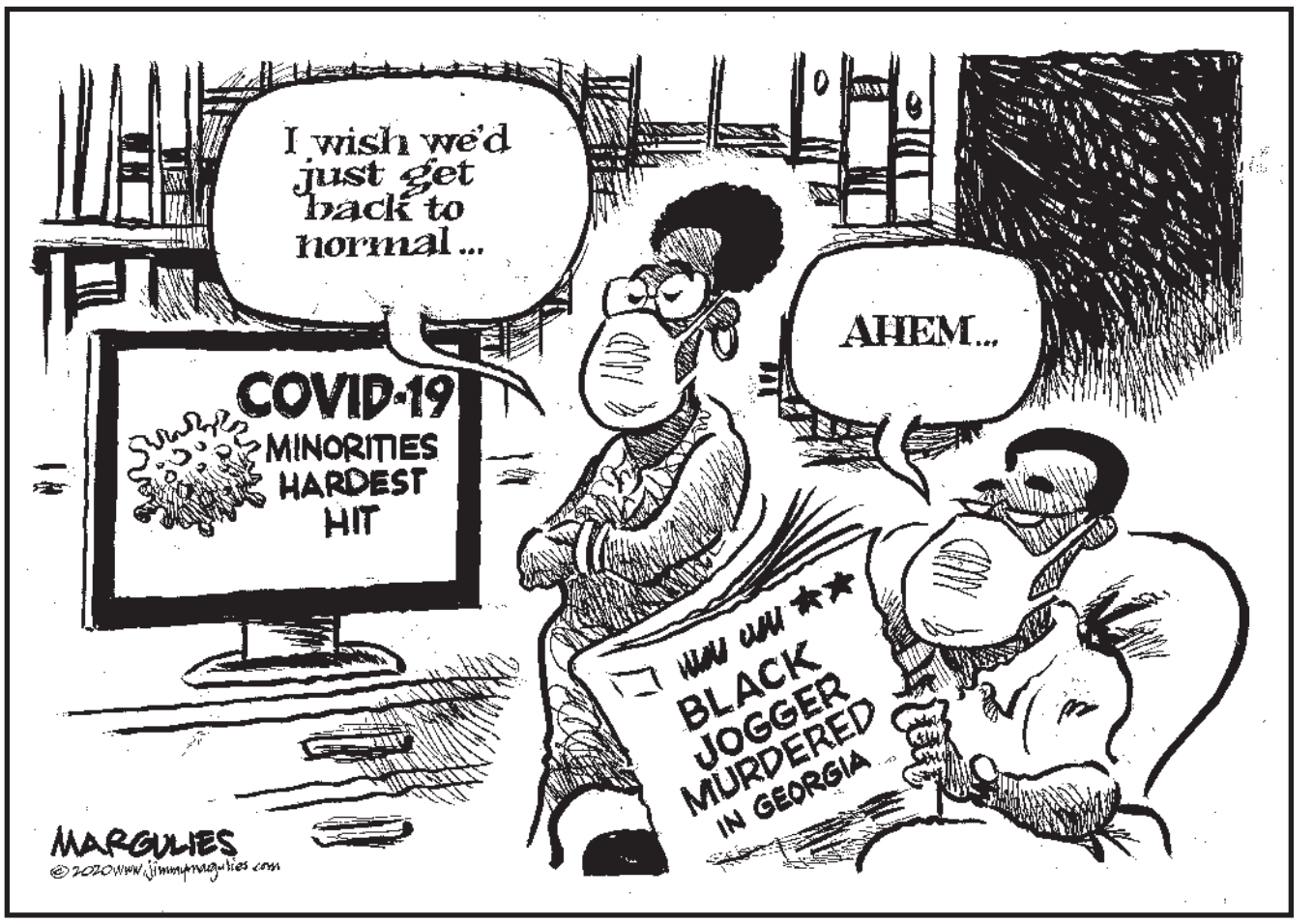
Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association



EDITORIAL

Job losses show that Congress has urgent work to do

If anyone required further evidence of the havoc that the coronavirus pandemic has wrought on the US economy, the Labor Department delivered it Friday: In a matter of weeks, more than 20 million people have been thrown out of work.

There's a lot more that Congress can and should do to help.

The jobs report for April is a catalog of extremes. The unemployment rate, at 14.7%, is the highest since the Great Depression (and that is probably an underestimate). The share of the population employed, at 51.3%, is the lowest. The number of nonfarm jobs lost is by far the largest on record in a single month.

The data further reveal the heavy toll the crisis is taking on the poor and the marginalized. Job losses, for example, were concentrated in relatively low-wage sectors such as leisure, hospitality and retail, as hotels, restaurants and stores shut their doors.

Black and Latino people have suffered disproportionately, exposing and deepening the inequities that fracture American society. From February to April, their employment rates declined more sharply (10.6 and 13.8 percentage points, respectively) than those of their white counterparts.

Congress has acted to cushion the shock, most notably with the $2.2 trillion CARES Act that it approved in late March. But implementation has been weak. Emergency cash payments have been frustratingly slow to reach the people who need them most. Overwhelmed state bureaucracies have made it hard to collect enhanced unemployment benefits. The first-come-first-served forgivable loans of the Paycheck Protection Program have left out many of the businesses and jobs the measure was supposed to protect.

Now, legislators are struggling to reach agreement on another economic relief package. There's no shortage of options to make the response more effective. Enhanced food stamp benefits could quickly reach the non-tax filers and unbanked that stimulus checks can't. More federal funds could help states deliver better benefits faster. And design tweaks, together with refunding, could make PPP better at keeping people employed.

The cost is enormous and mounting, but so be it. Congress should mobilize resources commensurate to this crisis—and do it as quickly as possible.

(C)2020 BLOOMBERG NEWS

The unemployment rate may be even worse than it looks

By JON HEALEY
Los Angeles Times

Jon Healey is the Los Angeles Times' *deputy editorial page editor.*

The April unemployment report is at least as bad as economists predicted: Based on a survey of U.S. households, the unemployment rate leaped from 4.4% to 14.7% as nearly 16 million people joined the ranks of the jobless. It was the highest rate recorded since the surveys began in 1948, and the biggest one-month increase.

But the truth is, the real statistics may be much, much worse. And even if they aren't, they convey a discouraging message about the months ahead.

The monthly jobs report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics includes two sets of numbers, one based on reports from employers (the establishment survey), the other on interviews with workers (the household survey). The establishment data were a little less grim, showing that the total number of jobs shrank by 20.5 million, versus 22.4 million in the household survey. Either way, the results were record-setting, and not in a good way.

Two more firsts: The ratio of workers to total population fell 8.7 percentage points, the largest drop ever recorded, to 51.3%, the lowest level on record. The all-important labor-force participation rate, which measures the number of people working or actively looking for work, fell to 60.2%, the lowest rate in 47 years.

Jobless rate

Percent of civilian labor force that is unemployed, by month, seasonally adjusted:

Graphic: TNS
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Former Obama administration chief economist Jason Furman teased out the larger meaning of the lower labor force participation rate:

Then there's this observation that Bureau of Labor Statistics Commissioner William W. Beach included in his comments: "In addition to the increase in the number of unemployed people, there was also an increase in the number of workers who were classified as employed but absent from work for the entire reference week." Beach raised the possibility that these workers may actually be temporarily unemployed—furloughed on account of pandemic-related restrictions. If these workers did indeed fall into that category, Beach wrote, "the overall unemployment rate would have been almost 5 percentage points higher than reported (on a not seasonally adjusted basis)."

In other words, nearly 1 in 5 working Americans may be in line for unemployment benefits. The one hopeful caveat here is that fewer people responded to the household survey than usual—70%, down from about 83%—so it may not be as accurate as usual.

The BLS establishment survey showed that the pandemic has cut a broad swath through U.S. industries, with every sector reporting job losses (with the exception of some subcategories, such as big-box retailers). Some of those losses appeared to be ephemeral, such as the half a million jobs lost in dentists' offices, which should bounce back as soon as the pandemic restrictions lift.

Others will revive only as quickly as people regain confidence in their ability to go out and about without risk of contracting or spreading a potentially fatal illness. That category includes the leisure and hospitality industries, where the job losses (7.7 million) neared 50% and arts, entertainment and recreation industries (1.3 million jobs lost).

The rest of the job losses reflect the pandemic restrictions' domino effect, and the larger recession that we're sinking into. They'll rebound more slowly, as more Americans get back on their feet, consumer spending picks up and businesses grow more optimistic about the future. These include the 2.1 million jobs lost by retailers, the 1.3 million jobs lost in manufacturing, the nearly 1 million lost in construction, the 584,000 lost in transportation and warehousing, and the 363,000 jobs lost in wholesale trade.

President Donald Trump put a happier spin on the jobs report; according to Aaron Blake of the Washington Post, Trump said Friday morning that "those jobs will all be back, and they'll be back very soon." But Furman crunched the numbers and saw something different:

Numerous economists have been saying since the early days of the pandemic that the single most important thing the country can do to help the economy is to beat the coronavirus—not just for public health reasons, but for psychological ones. That's still good advice today, as more businesses in California and across the country start to reopen in the hope that customers can and will return.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

By CLEO NENING
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Woody Allen, Reese Witherspoon and Halle Barry. What do these names have in common? These are just a few celebrities that have been diagnosed with a mental illness. According to Mental Health America, "1 in 5 people will experience a mental illness during their lifetime, everyone faces challenges in life that can impact their mental health."

Mental illness is real. It is a disability that cannot be seen, and affects us in so many different ways. Emotions can get the best of us, and it can be overwhelming at times. Just know that it is okay. It is okay to have different emotional responses.

This COVID-19 pandemic has stirred up many emotions or feelings for us. For some, it is more difficult to cope than others. Remember, you are not alone. Mental Health America shares that "owning your feelings" can have a positive response. Here are seven tips that I would like to share with you from their website: https://mhanational.org/mental-health-month

1 **Allow yourself to feel**. Sometimes there are societal pressures that encourage people to shut down their emotions, often expressed through statements like, "Big girls don't cry," or "Man up." These outdated ideas are harmful, not helpful. Everyone has emotions—they are part of the human experience—and you have every right to feel them, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, socio-economic status, race, political affiliation or religion.

2 **Don't ignore how you're feeling**. Most of us have heard the term "bottling up your feelings" before. When we try to push feelings aside without addressing them, they build strength and make us more likely to "explode" at some point in the future. It may not always be appropriate to process your emotions at the very moment you are feeling them, but try to do so as soon as you can.

3 **Talk it out.** Find someone you trust that you can talk to about how you're feeling. You may find that people are eager to share about similar experiences they've had or times that they have felt the way that you are feeling. This can be helpful, but if you're really only interested in having someone listen, it's okay to tell them that.

4 **Build your emotional vocabulary**. When asked about our feelings, most people will usually use words like bad, sad, mad, good, or fine. But at the root of "good, bad, sad, mad, or fine" are many words that better describe how we feel. Try building your emotional vocabulary by writing down as many "feeling" words as you can think of and think of a time that you felt that way.

5 **Try journaling.** Each night write down at least three feelings you had over the course of the day and what caused them. It doesn't need to be a "Dear Diary" kind of thing. Just a few sentences or bullet points to help you practice being comfortable with identifying and expressing your emotions.

6 **Consider the strength of your feelings.** By thinking about how intense your emotions are, you may realize that what you thought you were feeling at first could better be described by another word. For instance, sometimes a person might say they are stressed when what they are really experiencing is something less severe like annoyance. Alternatively, anger might really be a stronger, deeper feeling like betrayal.

7 **See a mental health professional.** If you are taking steps to be more in touch with your feelings, but are having trouble dealing with them, mental health providers like counselors and therapists have been trained to help. Some free or low cost options are also available. Your employer might have an Employee Assistance Program that offers a limited number of free counseling sessions, and your Human Resources department can help you access this resource. If you don't have an EAP through work, the leaders of religious organizations like churches, synagogues and mosques often have experience with counseling.

For more information about protections while accessing services, please contact the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc. at 235-7273/4 (voice) or visit us online at www.nmpasi.org.

Cleo Nening is with the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc.

The Ahmaud Arbery shooting: Video should not be required for racial justice

By CLARENCE PAGE
Chicago Tribune

Clarence Page is a member of the Chicago Tribune *Editorial Board. Readers may send him email at cpage@chicagotribune.com.*

In the case of Ahmaud Arbery, we once again see how nothing changes a crime narrative like a video.

Georgia authorities arrested and charged a white father and son Thursday with murder in the February shooting death of Arbery, a black man they had pursued in a truck after seeing him running through their neighborhood.

The charges of murder and aggravated assault against Gregory McMichael, 64, and his son Travis McMichael, 34, came more than two months after Arbery, 25, was killed on a residential street just outside the city of Brunswick, Ga.

Protests over what appeared to be a stalled investigation heated up after a copy of a cellphone video of the incident, which police possessed but had not revealed, was released to local media.

Artist Theo Ponchaveli paints a mural of the likeness of Ahmaud Arbery in Dallas, Friday, May 8, 2020. AP

The video, which went viral, turned on its head the narrative spun by initial police reports. Gregory McMichael, a retired investigator for the Glynn County district attorney's office, had claimed self-defense. According to the police report, he told police that he and his son had chased Arbery because they suspected him of being a burglar after they saw him "hauling ass" down the street.

But the video shows Arbery, a former high school football player whose parents later said regularly exercised by running through the residential neighborhood, casually jogging down the side of the road until he passes the parked pickup truck where two white men are waiting.

The younger McMichael appears to be riding in back in the truck bed. They apparently shout for him to stop but he keeps running. A confrontation unfolds on screen and off. After a gunshot and apparent scuffling, the black man is seen grappling with a white man over what appears to be a rifle or shotgun.

After a scuffle and a second shot, the runner can be seen punching the man. After a third shot, the runner staggers a few feet and falls face down.

Suddenly the case that had seemed dormant came alive. The Georgia Bureau of Investigation made the arrests within 36 hours of beginning its investigation into the case. The GBI had been called in after one prosecutor recused himself and a second argued that arrests were not warranted because the father and son were acting within Georgia's citizen arrest and self-defense statutes.

In a Friday news conference after the arrests, Georgia Bureau of Investigation Director Vic Reynolds wasn't buying that. There was "more than sufficient probable cause," he said, to charge the McMichaels with felony murder in the case.

Where did the video come from? Alan Tucker, a local defense attorney, identified himself Thursday as the person who shared the video with the radio station. The arrests came hours later. In a statement, Tucker said he wasn't representing anyone involved in the case, but he wouldn't reveal how he got the tape.

He released it, he said, "because my community was being ripped apart by erroneous accusations and assumptions."

So was much of the nation. The case immediately drew comparisons to the death of Trayvon Martin, a black 17-year-old whose death stirred national fury after he was killed by 28-year-old mixed-race George Zimmerman in Florida. The neighborhood watch coordinator shot Martin in a scuffle after stopping him because, as Zimmerman said later, he suspected the youth was "up to no good."

Charged with murder, Zimmerman was acquitted. There was no video to back up the case against Zimmerman, just as there was no video of another police shooting victim, Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo., which sparked days of protests in local streets.

But I think a closer comparison can be made to the shooting death of Walter Scott in 2015 in North Charleston, S.C. He was shot and killed by Michael Slager, a North Charleston police officer who had stopped the black man for a broken tail light. A nearby witness's cellphone video showed the officer shooting Scott in the back, and the officer later was sentenced to 20 years in prison.

In racially charged cases like these, the sad question lingers: Why does it take video evidence before black victimization can be believed? It's not that simple, of course. There are some cases in which the nonwhite suspect is guilty of a crime and using racism as an excuse—or, in some cases, even making up a hate crime that never actually occurred.

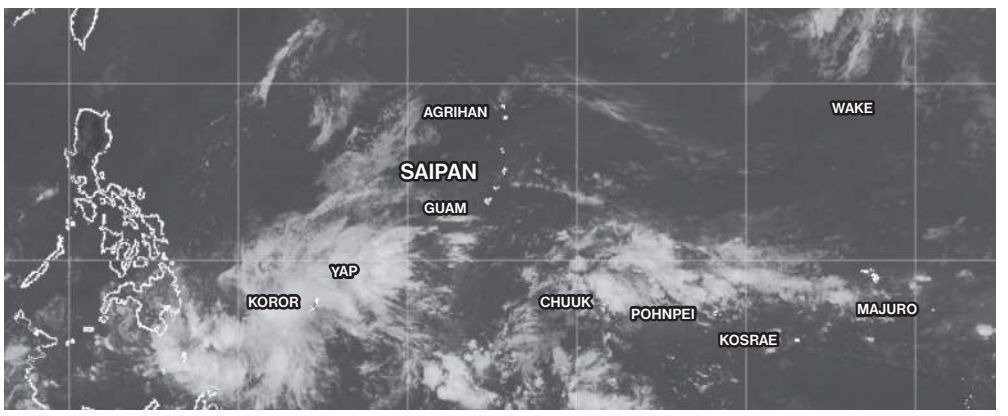
But those sins are not limited to any one race. Every time injustice is exposed through the fortunate presence of video, it should not bring us relief. It should make us ask, why aren't we doing better?

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy. East winds 15 to 20 mph	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy. Isolated showers.	Partly cloudy. Isolated showers.	Partly cloudy. Isolated showers.
88° 79°	89° 79°	89° 78°	89° 78°	89° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:27 AM, SUNDAY, MAY 9, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A trade-wind disturbance is noted on visible satellite at about 150E. Otherwise, the Marianas remain firmly anchored within a dry season trade-wind regime. The buoys reveal combined seas of 4 to 6 feet. The trend is gradually upward.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:55am	1, 4, 6

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:11am	1, 4, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	88° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 78°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Sunny	75° / 61°
Beijing	Sunny	55° / 30°
Hong Kong	Showers	72° / 66°
Honolulu	Showers	77° / 66°
London	Windy	45° / 37°
Los Angeles	Sunny	73° / 50°
Manila	Mostly Sunny	88° / 73°
Melbourne	Showers	75° / 64°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	80° / 73°
New York	Rain	50° / 36°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	59° / 50°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	48° / 39°
Busan	Rain	57° / 50°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	66° / 46°
Salem	Thunderstorms	73° / 59°
San Francisco	Sunny	63° / 45°
Seoul	Showers	48° / 37°
Tokyo	Sunny	52° / 36°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	57° / 45°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:49 AM	6:37 PM
Tuesday	5:49 AM	6:37 PM
Wednesday	5:48 AM	6:37 PM
Thursday	5:48 AM	6:38 PM
Friday	5:48 AM	6:38 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	9:05 AM	10:33 PM
Tuesday	-	10:02 AM	11:26 PM
Wednesday	-	10:58 AM	-
Thursday	12:15 AM	11:52 AM	-
Friday	12:59 AM	12:43 PM	-

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
4:51 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.32
9:22 AM	LOW TIDE	1.92
4:55 PM	HIGH TIDE	-0.23
-	-	-

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

GOVERNMENT RESOURCE LISTING AS OF APRIL 16, 2020

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
- ***Cashier & Customer Service***
  Monday - Friday
  8:00 AM - 1:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 664-4282
  Pay bills online at www.cucgov.org or via phone by calling toll free 1-(855)-729-2282

Department of Finance
- ***Division of Revenue & Taxation***
  CASHIER ONLY
  Monday - Friday
  7:30 AM - 4:30 PM
  Tel: (670) 664-1000
- ***Division of Customs Services***
  - ***Airport:*** OPEN DAILY
    8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
  - ***Seaport:*** Monday - Friday
    8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
  - ***Chalan Kanoa Post Office:***
    Monday - Friday 7:30 AM - 4:30 PM
    Saturday 7:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Department of Public Lands
- CASHIER ONLY
  Monday - Thursday
  9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
  Tel: (670) 234-3751/52/53/54

Saipan Zoning Office
- *Available via phone only*
  Monday - Thursday
  7:30 AM - 11:30 AM
  Tel: (670) 234-9661/2/3
  Email: yubert.alepuyo@zoning.gov.mp
  Call or email for more information

Department of Public Works
- ***Solid Waste Management Division***
  - ***Lower Base Transfer Station & Marpi Landfill***
    Open all week except Wednesday
    7:30 AM - 1:00 PM
    Tel: (670) 322-2745

CNMI State Medicaid Agency
- Eligibility staff via phone only
  Tuesday - Thursday from 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 664-4880/4882
  Accepting applications and supporting documents via drop-box at Medicaid Office. Medicaid application & renewal/ redetermination forms must be original. Applications/forms available for pick up next to the drop-box or online at: www.medicaid.cnmi.mp

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
- *Available via phone or email only on Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays from*
  9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 322-6537/38
  Email: maryann@ovrgov.net

Office of the Attorney General
- ***Civil & Criminal Divisions***
  Monday - Friday
  8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 237-7500/7600

Office of the Public Defender
- Monday - Friday
  9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 234-6503

SOCIAL DISTANCING TO BE IMPLEMENTED AT ALL OFFICES

GOVERNOR'S COVID-19 TASK FORCE HOTLINE TEL: (670) 287-0046
FOLLOW US @GOVERNORCNMI FOR THE LATEST NEWS & UPDATES

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

GOVERNMENT RESOURCE LISTING AS OF APRIL 16, 2020

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs

- ***Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)***
  Accepting Calls From Existing Customers Only
  Tel: (670) 287-1475
- ***Division of Youth Services (DYS) On-Call***
  Saipan: (670) 285-2780 / 287-2781 / 287-1773
  Tinian: (670) 287-3268
  Rota: (670) 287-2553
- ***Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)***
  For inquiries regarding parent eligibility requirements for CCDF Program:
  Tel: (670) 783-8571 / (670) 783-8572
  Email: dccajguerrero@gmail.com / ccdf.jrosario@gmail.com
- ***Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture (CCAC)***
  For Recovery Arts Grant Application Submissions. Grant Guidelines are available at http://www.cnmiartscouncil.org
  Tel.: (670) 287-4585
  Email: parkeryobei@gmail.com
- ***Historic Preservation Office (HPO)***
  For Processing of Federal 106 Consultations Call
  Tel: (670) 789-1986
  Email: rchong.cnmihpo@gmail.com
- ***Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP)***
  Benefit Pick Up: Monday - Friday
  8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

  Application Pick Up: Monday - Friday
  8:00 AM - 6:00 PM

  Application Submission:
  Anytime via Drop-Box

  Application Inquiries:
  Tel: (670) 237-2801/2802

  To download the NAP application and other forms go to dcca.gov.mp
  Email: support@cnminap.gov.mp

SOCIAL DISTANCING TO BE IMPLEMENTED AT ALL OFFICES

GOVERNOR'S COVID-19 TASK FORCE HOTLINE TEL: (670) 287-0046
FOLLOW US @GOVERNORCNMI FOR THE LATEST NEWS & UPDATES

Business

Historic unemployment rate upends Trump's reelection bid

NEW YORK (AP)—The record unemployment rate reported on Friday captured the pain of a nation where tens of millions of jobs suddenly vanished, devastating the economy and forcing President Donald Trump to overcome historic headwinds to win a second term.

Just a few short months ago, Trump planned to campaign for reelection on the back of a robust economy. That's a distant memory after more than 20 million jobs were lost in April, leading to an unemployment rate of 14.7%, the highest since the Great Depression.

There's no parallel in U.S. history for the suddenness or severity of the economic collapse, which is ravaging some states that are crucial to Trump's victory. The president is now tasked with convincing voters that the catastrophic jobs losses were the result of the pandemic—not his management of the public health crisis. He also argues that he deserves another chance to rebuild what the virus destroyed.

"What I can do: I'll bring it back," Trump told Fox News on Friday. "It's fully expected. There's no surprise. Everybody knows that. Even the Democrats aren't blaming me for that."

Bringing back jobs quickly won't be easy.

Backdated statistics show that unemployment reached as high as 25% in 1933 during the Great Depression. A broader calculation of unemployment from April's jobs report suggests the rate might be nearly that high now, as the 14.7% rate doesn't include people who left the labor force or still consider themselves employed despite not working. But the efforts needed to contain the spread of the coronavirus have caused much more rapid job loss than during the 1930s.

"The last time we had unemployment rates in this neighborhood, it took us five years to get there," said Erica Groshen, an economist at Cornell University and former commissioner of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. "This time, we will have achieved that in two months."

The suddenness of the crisis has been a shock to Americans, who will be looking for reassurance from Trump.

"The White House can make the point that the collapse was not the result of economic policies but an unprecedented global pandemic," said Kevin Madden, a Republican strategist who was a senior adviser on Mitt Romney's 2012 presidential campaign.

Over virus restrictions Musk threatens to exit California

Tesla CEO Elon Musk threatened Saturday to pull the company's factory and headquarters out of California and sued local officials who have stopped the company from reopening its electric vehicle factory.

In a lawsuit filed in federal court, Tesla accused the Alameda County Health Department of overstepping federal and state coronavirus restrictions when it stopped Tesla from restarting production at its factory in Fremont. The lawsuit contends Tesla factory workers are allowed to work during California's stay-at-home order because the facility is considered "critical infrastructure."

"Frankly, this is the final straw," Musk tweeted. "Tesla will now move its HQ and future programs to Texas/Nevada immediately."

He wrote that whether the company keeps any manufacturing in Fremont depends on how Tesla is treated in the future.

Musk has been ranting about the stay-home order since the company's April 29 first-quarter earnings were released, calling the restrictions fascist and urging governments to stop taking people's freedom.

An order in the six-county San Francisco Bay Area forced Tesla to close the plant starting March 23 to help prevent the virus' spread, and it was extended until the end of May. Public health experts say the orders have reduced the number of new coronavirus cases nationwide. California Gov. Gavin Newsom allowed the Bay Area counties to continue restrictions while easing them in other areas of the state.

In a statement Saturday, Alameda County's Health Department said it has been working with Tesla to develop a safety plan allowing the Fremont plant to reopen while protecting workers. "We look forward to coming to an agreement on an appropriate safety plan very soon," the statement said.

But the statement also said residents and businesses have made sacrifices to protect the health of people in the region. "It is our collective responsibility to move through the phases of reopening and loosening the restrictions of the shelter-in-place order in the safest way possible, guided by data and science," the department said.

Fremont Mayor Lily Mei wrote in a statement that she is growing concerned about the regional economy without provisions for major manufacturing to resume operations. "We know many essential businesses have proven they can successfully operate using strict safety and social distancing practices," the statement said.

Bank of Guam reopens Upper Tumon branch

HAGATNA, Guam—Bank of Guam announces the reopening of its Upper Tumon Branch beginning Monday, May 11, 2020. As with the Hagatna and Andersen Branches, as well as the Tumon Drive Thru, Upper Tumon Branch's hours will be 9am-1pm Monday through Friday, closed Saturdays.

Also beginning Monday, May 11, 2020, Bank of Guam will open its Hagatna and Garapan Branches and Drive Thru Services for *man'amko* (plus one helper) from 7:30am to 8:30am, also Monday thru Friday, closed Saturdays.

"With the gradual reopening of Guam's businesses coupled with the need by our community to access stimulus funds, we are very carefully expanding our branch network while providing special hours to assist our *man'amko*. Social distancing and hygiene measures will continue to assure the safety of our employees and community," said Bank of Guam president and chief executive officer Kin Cook.

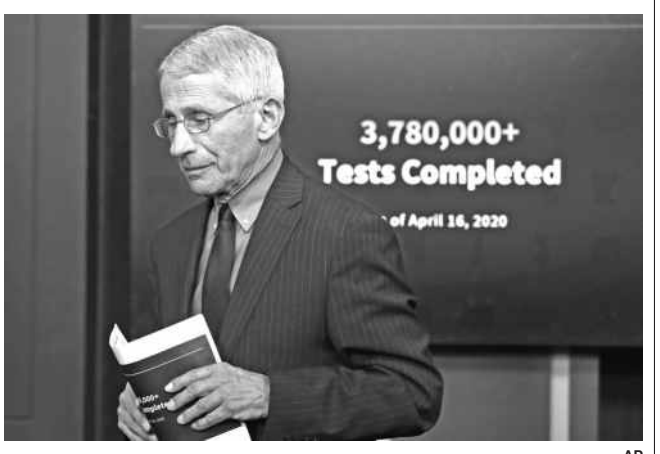
Cook added, "We are very thankful for your patience and support as we work together to contain the spread of COVID-19, and we ask for your continuing cooperation and understanding as we make further announcements. And finally, on behalf of the Bank of Guam *familia*, we send a Happy Mother's Day= wish for all moms, here and in heaven."

For additional information, contact Jackie Marati at (671) 472-5258. ***(PR)***

Nation

3 members of White House virus task force in quarantine

WASHINGTON (AP)—Three members of the White House coronavirus task force, including Dr. Anthony Fauci, placed themselves in quarantine after contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19, another stark reminder that not even one of the nation's most secure buildings is immune from the virus.



AP

In this Friday, April 17, 2020, file photo, Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, walks from the podium after speaking about the new coronavirus in the James Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House, in Washington.

Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and a leading member of the task force, has become nationally known for his simple and direct explanations to the public about the coronavirus and COVID-19, the disease it causes. Also quarantining are Dr. Robert Redfield, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, Stephen Hahn.

Fauci's institute said that he has tested negative for COVID-19 and will continue to be tested regularly. It added that he is considered at "relatively low risk" based on the degree of his exposure, and that he would be "taking appropriate precautions" to mitigate the risk to personal contacts while still carrying out his duties. While he will stay at home and telework, Fauci will go to the White House if called and take every precaution, the institute said.

Redfield will be "teleworking for the next two weeks" after it was determined he had a "low risk exposure" to a person at the White House, the CDC said in a statement Saturday evening. The statement said he felt fine and has no symptoms.

Just a few hours earlier, the Food and Drug Administration confirmed that Hahn had come in contact with someone who tested positive and was in self-quarantine for the next two weeks. He tested negative for the virus.

All three men are scheduled to testify before a Senate committee on Tuesday. Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., the chairman of the panel, said the White House will allow Redfield and Hahn to testify by videoconference, a one-time exception to the administration's policies on hearing testimony. The statement was issued before Fauci's quarantine was announced.

Vice President Mike Pence's press secretary tested positive for the coronavirus on Friday, making her the second person who works at the White House complex known to test positive for the virus this week. White House officials had confirmed Thursday that a member of the military serving as one of Trump's valets had tested positive for COVID-19 on Wednesday.

3 NY youths die from syndrome possibly linked to COVID-19

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—Two young children and a teenager have now died in New York state from a possible complication from the coronavirus involving swollen blood vessels and heart problems, Gov. Andrew Cuomo said Saturday.

At least 73 children in New York have been diagnosed with symptoms similar to Kawasaki disease—a rare inflammatory condition in children—and toxic shock syndrome. Most of them are toddlers and elementary-age children.

Cuomo announced two more deaths a day after discussing the death of a 5-year-old boy Thursday at a New York City hospital. A 7-year old in Westchester County and a teenager in Suffolk County on Long Island also died. There is no proof that the virus causes the mysterious syndrome.

Cuomo said children had tested positive for COVID-19 or the antibodies but did not show the common symptoms of the virus when they were hospitalized.

"This is the last thing that we need at this time, with all that is going on, with all the anxiety we have, now for parents to have to worry about whether or not their youngster was infected," Cuomo said at his daily briefing.

New York is helping develop national criteria for identifying and responding to the syndrome at the request of the Centers for Disease Control, Cuomo said.

Children elsewhere in the U.S. have also been hospitalized with the condition, which was also seen in Europe.

Doctors still believe that most children with COVID-19 develop only mild illness.

At least 3,000 U.S. children are diagnosed with Kawasaki disease each year. It is most common in children younger than 6 and in boys.

Symptoms include prolonged fever, severe abdominal pain and trouble breathing.

Other coronavirus developments in New York.

STAY-AT-HOME

Cuomo did not extend New York's stay-at-home restrictions to June 7—despite a claim by a spokesman that he did, according to a top aide to the governor.

Melissa DeRosa, secretary to the governor, released a prepared statement Saturday evening saying the May 15 expiration date for the restrictions still stands "until further notice."

Cuomo spokesman Richard Azzopardi had said earlier in the day that Cuomo in an executive order extended the stay-at-home restrictions into early June, though regions of the state would be able to phase in reopenings sooner if they meet a series of benchmarks. He later said he misinterpreted the order, which extended the expiration date of other emergency actions.

Asia

COVID-19 brings outbreaks of bullying and ostracism in Japan

AP
In this April 15, 2020, image made from the Youtube account of Arisa Kadono, she speaks to her smartphone video at a hospital, in Himeji, western Japan.

TOKYO (AP)—The coronavirus in Japan has brought not just an epidemic of infections, but also an onslaught of bullying and discrimination against the sick, their families and health workers.

A government campaign to raise awareness seems to be helping, at least for medical workers. But it's made only limited headway in countering the harassment and shunning that may be discouraging people from seeking testing and care and hindering the battle against the pandemic.

When Arisa Kadono tested positive and was hospitalized in early April, she was only identified as a woman in her 20s in food business. Soon, friends let her know that groundless rumors were circulating: that the family-run bar she helps with was a hotbed of virus; that she had dined with a popular baseball player who was infected earlier but she has never met; that she was sneaking out of the hospital and spreading the virus.

"It was as if I was a criminal," Kadono said in an interview from her home in Himeji, western Japan, after ending her three-week hospitalization.

Apart from a fever on the first day and a loss of smell, Kadono had no major symptoms though she repeatedly tested positive for the virus that causes COVID-19. Her mother developed pneumonia and was briefly in intensive care at another hospital.

"There are many other people who also have faced discrimination and prejudice,(asterisk) said Kadono, who decided to speak out on her own behalf and that of other COVID-19 survivors and their families. "I really want to change people's tendency to blame those who get infected.(asterisk)

Apart from fear of infection, experts say the prejudice against those even indirectly associated with the illness also stems from deeply rooted ideas about purity and cleanliness in a culture that rejects anything deemed to be alien, unclean or troublesome.

Medical workers risking their lives to care for patients are a main target, but people working at grocery stores, delivering parcels and carrying out other essential jobs also are facing harassment. So are their family members.

"I can imagine people fear the virus, but we are working hard at the front lines under enormous pressure," said a nurse in her 30s, speaking on condition of anonymity out of fear she might be targeted if identified. "We also have our own families we care about. Discrimination against us just because we are medical workers is discouraging and demoralizing."

Another nurse was approached by a few mothers and asked to leave a Tokyo park she was visiting with her children. Some nurses are unwelcome at restaurants they usually eat at. Some are rejected by taxi drivers. The Health Ministry issued a directive to day care facilities after some barred the children of doctors and nurses.

A veteran nurse in the northern island of Hokkaido said the mother of one of her coworkers was suspended from work. The husband of another was told at a job interview he wouldn't be hired because of his wife's job.

The nurses, both assigned to COVID-19 patients, were staying at hotels to protect their families while working under severe conditions without adequate protective equipment and testing.

"We understand people's fears, but medical workers are doing their utmost to prevent infections at hospitals. We seek your support," said Toshiko Fukui, head of the Japanese Nursing Association.

After weeks at sea, 277 Rohingya land in Bangladesh

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—More than 250 Rohingya Muslim refugees who had been floating for weeks on a fishing boat in the Bay of Bengal arrived Friday on an island in southern Bangladesh, officials said.

The 277 refugees were taken to Bhasan Char island after they reached Bangladesh's coast, said Mohammed Alamgir Hossain, police superintendent in Noakhali district where the island is located. He said the navy took them there after their boat was spotted.

The Rohingya were being guarded and would be quarantined for 14 days to protect against the coronavirus, he said.

Louise Donovan, a spokeswoman for the U.N. refugee agency, said they received reports about the Rohingya being taken to the island. "We are seeking further information from the Bangladesh authorities," she said.

Another group of 29 Rohingya reached the island on Sunday after weeks of floating at sea and failing to reach Malaysia.

Taking the refugees to Bhasan Char is an issue of concern for the U.N. and other international agencies. They earlier opposed a government plan to relocate 100,000 Rohingya there from crowded refugee camps in Cox's Bazar.

Bhasan Char was previously submerged by monsoon rains but the government said in January that it was ready to relocate the refugees there.

The navy was involved in a multimillion-dollar project in which flood protection embankments, houses, hospitals and mosques were built on the island. But so far, no refugees have agreed to voluntarily move there.

"The U.N.'s longstanding position is that comprehensive technical and protection assessments to evaluate the safety and sustainability of life on Bhasan Char are essential before any relocation to the island takes place," Donovan said. "The U.N. has long been prepared to proceed with onsite assessment work but has no presence on the island."

Rights groups recently said that hundreds of Rohingya had been stranded on at least two fishing trawlers in the seas between Bangladesh and Malaysia. They reportedly attempted to reach Malaysia, but failed because of strict patrols to keep out the coronavirus.

The United Nations, the British government and Human Rights Watch recently urged Bangladesh to shelter all the refugees floating at sea, but Foreign Minister A.K. Abdul Momen reacted sharply, saying all other nations in the Bay of Bengal region should share the responsibility of sheltering them.

Currently more than 1 million Rohingya refugees are living in the camps in Cox's Bazar district. Most fled their homes in neighboring Myanmar after its military launched a harsh crackdown in response to an attack by a Rohingya insurgent group in 2017. Myanmar's security forces have been accused of committing mass rapes, killings and burning thousands of homes in the crackdown.

The Muslim Rohingya are not recognized as citizens in Buddhist-majority Myanmar, rendering them stateless, and also face other forms of state-sanctioned discrimination.

Anti-India clashes continue in tense Kashmir for 3rd day

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—Anti-India protests and clashes continued for a third day in disputed Kashmir on Friday following the killing of a top rebel leader by government forces.

Rebel commander Riyaz Naikoo and his aide were killed in a gunfight with Indian troops on Wednesday in the southern Awantipora area, leading to massive clashes at several places.

The clashes continued Friday as anti-India protesters threw stones at government forces, who fired shotgun pellets and tear gas to quell the spiraling protests.

At least one man was killed and 50 others were injured in the three days of clashes, residents and medics said. Most of the injured were treated locally. However, at least a dozen people with bullet and pellet injuries were taken to a hospital in Srinagar, the region's main city, for treatment, a doctor said on condition of anonymity because medics have been barred from briefing news media. She said most of the injured had been hit by pellets in one or both eyes.

Residents said government forces swooped into the rebel leader's native village on Thursday, and accused them of vandalizing a tent which villagers had set up for mourning his death, triggering large protests and clashes in the area.

Authorities did not hand over the bodies of the two slain rebels to their families under a new government policy designed to thwart large-scale funerals that have become a rallying point for anti-India protests. Instead, police buried the bodies in a mountainous graveyard about 100 kilometers (60 miles) from the village.

Authorities have shut down cellphone and mobile internet service since Wednesday, a common Indian tactic in the region when such protests erupt. They also imposed a near total information blackout and refused to brief media about the situation.

Hindu-majority India imposed similar measures in 2019 when it revoked the predominantly Muslim region's semi-autonomous status and statehood and imposed direct federal rule. At that time it launched a monthslong total communication blackout and an unprecedented military crackdown in the strife-torn region.

Indian security officials and some members of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party called Naikoo's death a major victory against the insurgents. Naikoo, 35, was the chief of operations of the region's largest indigenous rebel group, Hizbul Mujahideen, which has spearheaded an armed rebellion against Indian rule.

He was the group's top commander for almost eight years and shot into prominence during a 2016 public uprising following the killing of the group's charismatic leader, Burhan Wani. After Wani's death, Naikoo helped give new life to the militant movement. Security officials say he was the most wanted militant in Kashmir.

India has stepped up its counterinsurgency operations across Kashmir in recent months during a coronavirus lockdown. Militants have also continued their attacks on government forces and alleged informants.

World

Reopenings bring new cases in S. Korea, virus fears in Italy

ROME (AP)—South Korea's capital closed down more than 2,100 bars and other nightspots Saturday because of a new cluster of coronavirus infections, Germany scrambled to contain fresh outbreaks at slaughterhouses, and Italian authorities worried that people were getting too friendly at cocktail hour during the country's first weekend of eased restrictions.

The new flareups—and fears of a second wave of contagion—underscored the dilemma authorities face as they try to reopen their economies.

Around the world, the U.S. and other hard-hit countries are wrestling with how to ease curbs on business and public activity without causing the virus to come surging back.

In New York, the deadliest hot spot in the U.S., Gov. Andrew Cuomo said three children died from a possible complication of the coronavirus involving swollen blood vessels and heart problems. At least 73 children statewide have been diagnosed with symptoms similar to Kawasaki disease—a rare inflammatory condition—and toxic shock syndrome. But there is no proof the mysterious syndrome is caused by the virus.

Two members of the White House coronavirus task force—the heads of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Food and Drug Administration—placed themselves in quarantine after contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19, a stark reminder that not even one of the nation's most secure buildings is immune from the virus.

Elsewhere, Belarus, which has not locked down despite sharply rising infections, saw tens of thousands turn out to mark Victory Day, the anniversary of Nazi Germany's defeat in 1945. Authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko has dismissed concerns about the virus as a "psychosis."

That was in contrast to Russia, which skipped the usual grand military parade in Moscow's Red Square. This year's observance had been expected to be especially large because it is the 75th anniversary, but instead, President Vladimir Putin laid flowers at the tomb of the unknown soldier and a show of military might was limited to a flyover of 75 warplanes and helicopters.

Worldwide, 4 million people have been confirmed infected by the virus, and more than 279,000 have died, including over 78,000 in the U.S., according to a tally kept by Johns Hopkins University. Spain, France, Italy and Britain have reported around 26,000 to 32,000 deaths each.

Germany and South Korea have both carried out extensive testing and contact tracing and have been hailed for avoiding the mass deaths that overwhelmed other countries. But even there, authorities have struggled to find the balance between saving lives and salvaging jobs.

Seoul shut down nightclubs, hostess bars and discos after dozens of infections were linked to people who went out last weekend as the country relaxed social distancing. Many of the infections were connected to a 29-year-old man who visited three nightclubs before testing positive.

Virus prevents diaspora Venezuelans from sending money home

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—After fleeing Venezuela along with millions of others amid the country's grueling humanitarian crisis, Misael Cocho made his way by bus to Peru—where he got odd jobs and sent money home monthly to support his mother and his 5-year-old son.

But just after Cocho landed his steadiest work so far in Lima, coronavirus cases skyrocketed. He lost his job, sold his TV to buy food and hasn't been able to wire money for months to Caracas to pay for food for the boy and Cocho's mother.

The pandemic's economic fallout left many Venezuelans abroad and the relatives back home who rely on them in dire straits. And as work disappears in countries like Peru and Colombia, humanitarian groups say many Venezuelans who fled hunger are now going hungry.

Cocho, 24, faces a dilemma: Should he stay in Peru in case the economy improves, or go back to Caracas where life is precarious but might not get worse?

"The truth is that this pandemic has really hit me hard," he said.

Venezuela's population peaked at 30 million in 2015, but 5 million alarmed at the country's economic implosion migrated elsewhere in South America and to the U.S. and Europe, according to the U.N.'s International Organization for Migration. Most who stayed behind get by on a minimum wage that's the equivalent of about $2 a month.

About half of the Venezuelans who emigrated to other South American countries are so-called "informal" sector workers—laborers, vendors, street performers and waiters, estimated Provash Budden, regional Americas director for the Mercy Corps humanitarian aid group. Those jobs were hit hard by the virus' economic impact and there are few if any social safety nets to help the people who had them.

Cocho first found work in Peru shoveling manure and sweeping streets and recently landed a better-paying job at a family-owned corner store. But he was laid off as the coronavirus spread. Peru has about 65,000 confirmed cases and, with more than 1,800 deaths, the second highest Latin American death count after Brazil, where more than 10,000 have died.

He sleeps on a mattress in a crowded home filled with Venezuelan migrants. The landlord has let him skip the rent so far, but Cocho doesn't know how long the generosity will last.

"I've had no other choice but to sell the things I don't use in order to get by," he said.

Venezuela was once a wealthy nation sitting atop the world's largest reserves of oil. But years of political confrontation, corruption and resource mismanagement by the socialist government left most Venezuelans with increasingly scarce water, electricity, gasoline and inadequate medical care.

Egypt's president expands powers, citing virus outbreak

CAIRO (AP)—Egypt's President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi has approved amendments to the country's state of emergency that grant him and security agencies additional powers, which the government says are needed to combat the coronavirus outbreak.

An international rights group condemned the amendments, saying the government has used the global pandemic to "expand, not reform, Egypt's abusive Emergency Law."

The new amendments allow the president to to take measures to contain the virus, such as suspending classes at schools and universities and quarantining those returning from abroad. But they also include expanded powers to ban public and private meetings, protests, celebrations and other forms of assembly.

The government has waged an unprecedented crackdown on dissent since 2013, when el-Sissi rose to power, and unauthorized protests have been banned for years.

The amendments, which el-Sissi signed off on Friday, also allow military prosecutors to investigate incidents when army officers are tasked with law enforcement or when the president orders it. The country's chief civilian prosecutor would have the final decision on whether to bring matters to trial.

The amended law would also allow the president to postpone taxes and utility payments as well as provide economic support for affected sectors.

Parliament, which is packed with el-Sissi supporters, approved the measure last month.

Egypt has been under a state of emergency since April 2017, and the government extended it late last month for another three months. The law was originally passed to give the president broader powers to combat terrorism and drug trafficking.

The government said the amendments were needed to address a legal "vacuum" revealed by the coronavirus outbreak. Egypt, with a population of 100 million, has reported at least 514 deaths among around 9,000 confirmed cases.

However, only five of the 18 amendments are clearly related to public health, and the new powers can be used whenever a state of emergency is declared, Human Rights Watch said.

"Some of these measures could be needed in public health emergencies, but they should not be open to abuse as part of an unreformed emergency law," said Joe Stork, the New York-based group's Middle East and North Africa director.

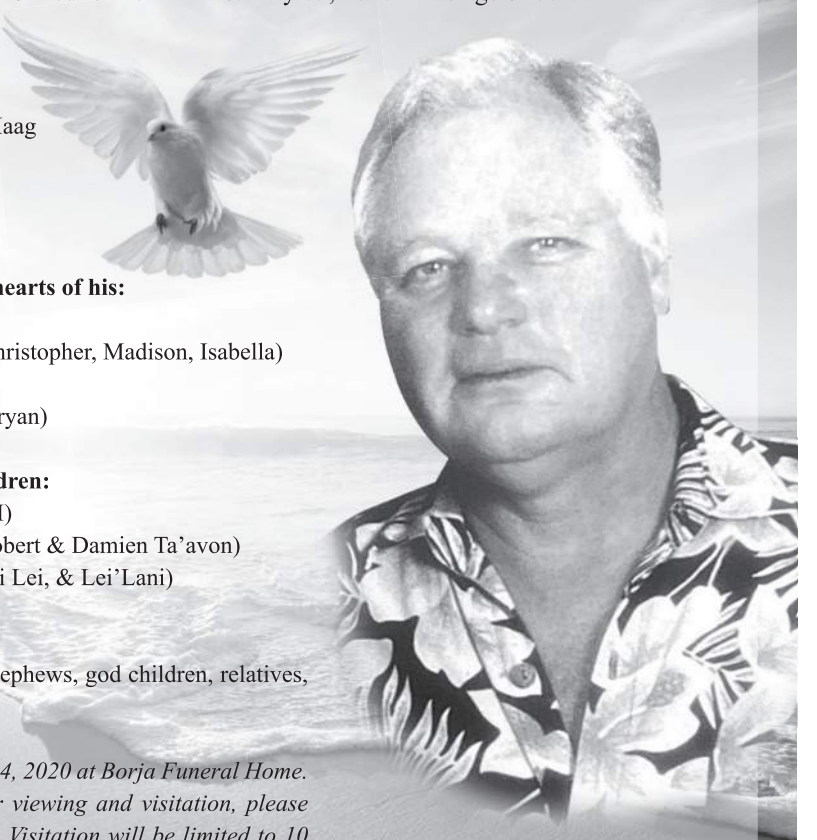
"Resorting to 'national security and public order' as a justification reflects the security mentality that governs Sissi's Egypt."

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

†Robert Earl Florian Jr.

Better Known as "Bob"

Born to Life: August 18, 1939 Called to Eternal Life: May 03, 2020 at the age of 80



In his new life, he joins his:

Parents: Robert Florian SR. & Phyllis Haag
Brother: Terrence Florian
Wife: Maria Pua Florian
Parents in Law: Damian S. & Marcelina A. Pua

His spirit & memories will live forever in the hearts of his:
Siblings: Michael Florian
Timothy & Cynthia Florian (Christopher, Madison, Isabella)

Sister in Law: Evie Florian (Jeffrey, James, Bryan)

Children, Grandchildren, & Great Grandchildren:
Ophelia & Robin Sablan (Christopher & Robin II)
Temara & Damien Deleon Guerrero (Lorenzo Robert & Damien Ta'avon)
Pualani Florian & D'Marcus Malone (Jelan, Nani Lei, & Lei'Lani)
Timothy Robert Florian & Antonio Chong

He will be greatly missed by numerous nieces, nephews, god children, relatives, and friends.

Funeral services will be held on Thursday, May 14, 2020 at Borja Funeral Home. Public viewing will be from 9 am - 10 am. For viewing and visitation, please observe social distancing and wear facial mask. Visitation will be limited to 10 people at a time. Your cooperation and understanding are greatly appreciated.

Thank you - Si Yu'us Ma'ase
Children & Family

Health & Wellness

This advertorial is sponsored by Tan Holdings HEALTH IS WEALTH Tan Siu Lin Foundation

CLASSIC HUMMUS

PG tested

This nutritious and creamy Middle Eastern dip is low in sodium and high in protein. I like it with a lot of lemon and cumin, but you also could add more garlic, roasted red pepper, paprika, cayenne, cilantro, jalapeno or anything else you like.

If it's too thick, add a little more oil, lemon juice or water to taste. Serve with fresh veggies, whole-grain crackers, toasted pita chips or tortilla chips. Hummus also makes a nice substitute for mayo on sandwiches and in wraps.

- 1 can (15 ounces) chickpeas, drained and rinsed
- Juice of 1 to 2 large lemons
- 1 or 2 garlic cloves, chopped
- { cup tahini, well mixed
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, plus more for drizzling
- Paprika and/or chopped parsley, for garnish

Hummus, a creamy Middle Eastern dip made with chickpeas and tahini paste, is perfect for mindless dipping.

Combine chickpeas, lemon juice, garlic, tahini, salt and cumin in a food processor.

Puree the hummus for several minutes until it is smooth and well mixed. Season with pepper, then drizzle in 3 tablespoons olive oil. Continue pureeing until the hummus is super creamy. You may have to add a little water if it's too thick.

To serve, spoon hummus into a shallow bowl, dust with paprika and/or parsley and drizzle with a little more olive oil.

Makes about 1 { cups.

Serve with baby carrots, sliced vegetables, crackers, toasted pita or rice crackers.

—**Gretchen McKay**

GINGER AND MOLASSES ENERGY BARS

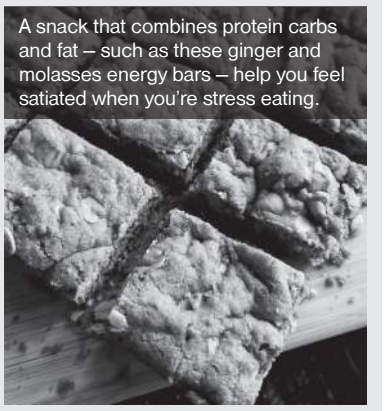
PG tested

The key to a good snack is to combine protein, carbs and fat to help you feel satiated, writes registered dietitian Charlie Watson in "Cook, Eat, Run," a cookbook for runners. These energy bars taste like an Archway cookie.

- { cup old-fashioned oats
- 1 { cups all-purpose flour, sifted
- \ teaspoon cloves
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- { cup vegetable or avocado oil
- 2{ tablespoons molasses
- } cup light brown sugar
- 1 large egg, beaten
- 2 tablespoons chopped candied ginger, optional

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and line an 8-inch square baking pan with parchment paper.

In large bowl, mix together oats, flour, cloves, cinnamon, ginger and baking soda. In separate bowl, whisk together oil, molasses, brown sugar and egg.



A snack that combines protein carbs and fat – such as these ginger and molasses energy bars – help you feel satiated when you're stress eating.

Pour wet ingredients into dry and stir to combine; the mixture will be thick. Spoon mixture into prepared pan and spread into corners. Sprinkle candied ginger on top, if using.

Bake for 20 to 25 minutes, until top is golden and crisp and middle is just set.

Leave to cool in pan then cut into 24 squares. Will keep for up to five days in an airtight container.

Makes 24 squares.

—**"Cook, Eat, Run" by Charlie Watson (Quadrille Publishing; February 2020)**

Turn toward healthy snacks for stress eating

By GRETCHEN MCKAY
PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

Is COVID-19 stressing you out? Me, too.

I know that to be a fact, and not just because I'm having trouble sleeping and feel sick to my stomach when I watch the news. I'm also eating. And eating more, even though I'm no longer training for any of my spring races.

It's so easy to do, even if it's not particularly enjoyable. A handful of chips on your way from the kitchen to the living room. A mindless slice of cheese while you're aimlessly perusing the contents of your refrigerator like a hungry middle-schooler. And a glass of wine, or beer, before it's 5 p.m., even on weekdays.

No one can blame you. In fact, it's understandable. While some lose their appetite in times of anxiety—and what are we during this pandemic if not anxious _ many others soothe the negative feelings with food, even when they're not particularly hungry.

"People grab the foods that comforted them during childhood and the pleasure chemical in the brain is released, which is self-soothing," says Kelsey Hutter, a registered dietitian and certified diabetes educator with Allegheny Health Network.

According to the data tracker Nielsen, we're not just stocking up on toilet paper and hand sanitizer. Americans also are buying a heck of a lot of chocolate, ice cream, popcorn and potato chips. Sales of pastry also has soared.

Mindless eating doesn't just wreck havoc on the waistline; it's also bad for your health. Poor nutrition can compromise your immune function, and with the coronavirus spreading across communities, do you really want to increase your risk of getting infected?

When it comes to meals and everything else in between, staying healthy means watching not only how much you eat but also what you eat, along with where and when.

To that end, Hutter says one should try to be cognizant of what he or she is consuming _ a practice that's known as mindful eating.

"It's about being present and savoring the flavors with your senses," she says. How does it taste? What's the aroma and texture?

It's also about determining your hunger level. For instance, is your stomach grumbling or are you simply munching in front of the computer or TV because you saw that bag of chips on the counter?

"It encourages you to slow down and pay attention to food," she says.

This can be difficult now that so many people are working from home and within steps of their kitchens and pantries. What can help, if you have a tendency to graze or binge eat, is to come up with a plan Hutter calls "the role of fives."

Make a list of five things that relax you, such as reading a magazine or playing with your kids; five things that distract you; five people you can call and connect with; five things that soothe your senses, such as turning down the lights or trading jeans for sweat pants; and five places you can go for comfort, such as a garden or your favorite chair.

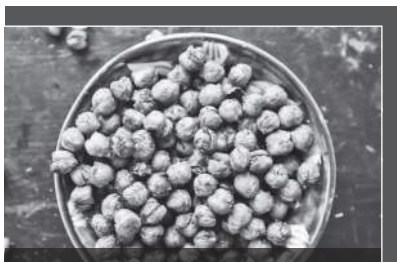
Learn, too, the difference between emotional and physical hunger. The former comes on suddenly and craves a specific comfort food; the latter grows more gradually and stops when your stomach is full.

"Just because you're home all day doesn't give you permission to graze all day or overeat," she says. "You have to catch yourself."

Bringing healthier foods into the home is a positive first step—think popcorn instead of cookies or flavored yogurt or low-cal ice cream bars instead of full-fat ice cream, for instance.

Also, think about retooling recipes for your favorite snacks so they contain more of the good stuff, like protein, healthy fats and less sugar.

Are you a chocaholic? Avocado blended with yogurt, cocoa powder, maple syrup and vanilla makes a satisfying chocolate pudding. It's also good for you, as avocados boast more than 20 nutrients and good-for-you monounsaturated fats. Serve it in a pretty cocktail glass, and it will feel extra special.



Crispy, roasted cickpeas tossed in warm spices such as cumin or curry are a heart-healthy snack.

PHOTOS BY GRETCHEN MCKAY/PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE/TNS

CRISPY CHICKPEAS

PG tested

If you love snacks with crunch, these toasted chickpeas will make you happy. They're loaded with fiber, zinc, folate and protein and also are gluten-free and vegan. Feel free to experiment with a variety of spices.

- 1 can (15 ounces) chickpeas, rinsed and drained
- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- { teaspoon smoked paprika
- { teaspoon garlic powder
- { teaspoon sea salt
- [teaspoon cayenne pepper, optional

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Line a rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper. Pour chickpeas onto a clean kitchen towel or paper towels and thoroughly pat dry.

Place chickpeas in bowl, and toss with oil and spices. Transfer to baking sheet and spread out in single layer.

Bake for 20 minutes, stir and return to oven for 10 more minutes or until extra crispy. Allow chickpeas to cool completely before serving.

Makes 1 cup.

—**"Run Fast. Cook Fast. Eat Slow" by Shalene Flanagan and Elise Kopecky (Rodale; August 2018)**

Avocado gives this blender chocolate pudding a silky texture. It's also gluten-free.

DARK CHOCOLATE AVOCADO PUDDING

PG tested

Avocados provide healthy fat and make this pudding super satiating. You can play with the recipe by adding a little ginger, cinnamon or cayenne pepper. If you've got cocoa nibs, they make a lovely and crunchy garnish. Substitute almond or coconut milk for the yogurt and skim milk for a vegan treat.

- 2 small ripe avocados, pitted and scooped from skin
- 1/3 cup plain Greek yogurt
- \ cup skim milk
- { cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- { cup maple syrup
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Pinch of salt
- Ground ginger, cinnamon or cayenne pepper, optional
- Whipped cream, berries and/or cocoa nibs, for garnish

In a food processor, combine avocados, yogurt, milk, cocoa powder, maple syrup, vanilla, salt and spice(s), if using. Process until very smooth. Refrigerate until chilled.

Serve in individual bowls, either alone or parfait style, layered with whipped cream and berries.

—**Adapted from "Chia, Quinoa, Kale, Oh My!" by Cassie Johnston (Countryman Press; January 2015)**

CUCUMBER-MINT SPRITZER

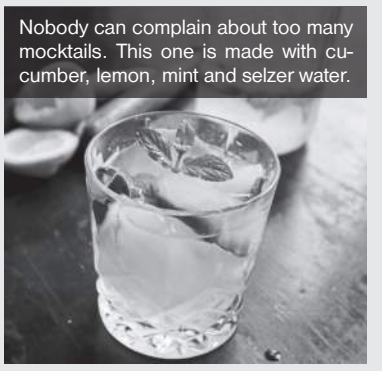
PG tested

This refreshing alcohol-free spritzer, perfect for sipping on the porch or deck after a work-from-home day, has just 12 calories.

- 2 mini cucumbers or { large cucumber
- 8 leaves fresh mint, plus sprigs for garnish
- 2 lemons or limes
- 12 ounces lemon or regular seltzer
- Ice cubes

Slice cucumber(s) into thin ribbons using a mandoline or vegetable peeler. Place in a large mason jar or small pitcher, reserving some for glasses.

Add mint leaves and gently muddle. Squeeze juice from 1 { lemons (or limes) into the pitcher, reserving the other half for garnish. Stir in seltzer.



Nobody can complain about too many mocktails. This one is made with cucumber, lemon, mint and selzer water.

Fill 2 cocktail glasses with ice. Pour drink over ice and garnish with mint sprigs, cucumber ribbons and lemon (or lime) slices, if desired.

Makes 2 drinks.

—**Gretchen McKay**

Maybe you're more of a cruncher. Roasted chickpeas are lower in calories than nuts, packed with fiber and can be customized with a variety of warm spices, including cumin, cayenne and curry powder.

Sate a sweet tooth not with a sugary cookie but a nutritious energy bar flavored with ginger and molasses. It's a runner's favorite, thanks to the carbs, and is equally good with a cup of coffee as a glass of milk.

And finally, while carrot sticks, whole-grain crackers and sliced veggies make for healthful snacking, they can also feel like you're on a diet. So how about you pair them with a tasty, nutritious dip. Chickpeas, a main ingredient in hummus, are chock-full of key nutrients, such as B vitamins, calcium and iron, and they also provide fiber.

We've got recipes for the above, as well as one for a guilt-free mocktail to enjoy after a hard day in your (home) office. Crafted with cucumber, citrus, mint and seltzer, it's so refreshing and because there's no alcohol, you don't even have to wait until it's five o'clock somewhere to enjoy it.

And if you fall off the healthy snack wagon? Be kind to yourself.

"It's going to take time to adapt to this new normal," Hutter says.

Life & Style

AP

In this May 30, 2009 file photo, Little Richard performs at The Domino Effect, a tribute concert to New Orleans rock and roll musician Fats Domino, at the New Orleans Arena in New Orleans.

Little Richard, rock 'n' roll pioneer, dead at 87

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Little Richard, one of the chief architects of rock 'n' roll whose piercing wail, pounding piano and towering pompadour irrevocably altered popular music while introducing black R&B to white America, died Saturday after battling bone cancer. He was 87.

Pastor Bill Minson, a close friend of Little Richard's, told The Associated Press that Little Richard died Saturday morning. His son, Danny Jones Penniman, also confirmed his father's death, which was first reported by Rolling Stone.

Bill Sobel, Little Richard's attorney for more than three decades, told the AP in an email that the musician died of bone cancer at a family home in Tullahoma, Tennessee.

"He was not only an iconic and legendary musician, but he was also a kind, empathetic, and insightful human being," Sobel said.

Born Richard Penniman, Little Richard was one of rock 'n' roll's founding fathers who helped shatter the color line on the music charts, joining Chuck Berry and Fats Domino in bringing what was once called "race music" into the mainstream. Richard's hyperkinetic piano playing, coupled with his howling vocals and hairdo, made him an implausible sensation—a gay, black man celebrated across America during the buttoned-down Eisenhower era.

He sold more than 30 million records worldwide, and his influence on other musicians was equally staggering, from the Beatles and Otis Redding to Creedence Clearwater Revival and David Bowie. In his personal life, he wavered between raunch and religion, alternately embracing the Good Book and outrageous behavior and looks - mascara-lined eyes, pencil-thin mustache and glittery suits.

"Little Richard? That's rock 'n' roll," Neil Young, who heard Richard's riffs on the radio in Canada, told biographer Jimmy McDonough. "Little Richard was great on every record."

It was 1956 when his classic "Tutti Frutti" landed like a hand grenade in the Top 40, exploding from radios and off turntables across the country. It was highlighted by Richard's memorable call of "wop-bop-a-loo-bop-a-lop-bam-boom."

A string of hits followed, providing the foundation of rock music: "Lucille," "Keep A Knockin'," "Long Tall Sally," "Good Golly Miss Molly." More than 40 years after the latter charted, Bruce Springsteen was still performing "Good Golly Miss Molly" live.

The Beatles' Paul McCartney imitated Richard's signature yelps—perhaps most notably in the "Wooooo!" from the hit "She Loves You." Ex-bandmate John Lennon covered Richard's "Rip It Up" and "Ready Teddy" on the 1975 "Rock and Roll" album.

When the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame opened in 1986, he was among the charter members with Elvis Presley, Berry, Buddy Holly, Jerry Lee Lewis, Sam Cooke and others.

"It is with a heavy heart that I ask for prayers for the family of my lifelong friend and fellow rocker Little Richard," said Lewis, 84, in a statement provided by his publicist. "He will live on always in my heart with his amazing talent and his friendship! He was one of a kind and I will miss him dearly. God bless his family and fans."

Roy Horn of Siegfried & Roy dies from coronavirus at 75

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Roy Horn of Siegfried & Roy, the duo whose extraordinary magic tricks astonished millions until Horn was critically injured in 2003 by one of the act's famed white tigers, has died. He was 75.

Horn died of complications from the coronavirus on Friday in a Las Vegas hospital, according to a statement released by publicist Dave Kirvin.

"Today, the world has lost one of the greats of magic, but I have lost my best friend," Siegfried Fischbacher said in the statement. "From the moment we met, I knew Roy and I, together, would change the world. There could be no Siegfried without Roy, and no Roy without Siegfried."

He was injured in October 2003 when a tiger named Montecore attacked him on stage at the Mirage hotel-casino in Las Vegas. He had severe neck injuries, lost a lot of blood and later suffered a stroke. He underwent lengthy rehabilitation, but the attack ended the long-running Las Vegas Strip production.

The darker-haired of the flashy duo, Horn was credited with the idea of introducing an exotic animal—his pet cheetah—to the magic act.

"Roy was a fighter his whole life including during these final days," Fischbacher said. "I give my heartfelt appreciation to the team of doctors, nurses and staff at Mountain View Hospital who worked heroically against this insidious virus that ultimately took Roy's life."

The two became an institution in Las Vegas, where their magic and artistry consistently attracted sellout crowds. The pair performed six shows a week, 44 weeks per year.

AP

In this Saturday, Sept. 18, 2004, file photo, magicians Siegfried Fischbacher, left, and Roy Horn appear at the Four Seasons hotel in Las Vegas, where Horn received an award from the Clark County Public Education Foundation.

Friendship ends with flood of social media messages

DEAR ABBY: I had this friend that I met eight months ago at a local boxing gym here in Chicago. We got along extremely well and even hung out a couple of times. However, she left her job at the gym two months later and things started falling apart.

I started sending excessive messages on her social media, and she didn't like it. By the following month, she had enough. She told me I have an unhealthy attachment to her and we would go our separate ways. She blocked me from all social media, and she hasn't contacted me since.

Four months later, I am better, but she is still in my head. I really want to write her a nice and sincere letter and reconcile with her and have her be my friend again. I didn't know that I was doing something wrong.

I have tried reaching out to her multiple times recently via email, to no avail. In the meantime, one of her friends told me she has moved to Texas, which makes it even more heartbreaking. How can I show her I can be her friend again without exhibiting those same "toxic" behaviors?

GUY WITH A WOUNDED HEART

DEAR GUY: You have already done enough. You have done so much, in fact, that the young woman felt she was being stalked. She has sent you clear signals that she's not interested in being friends—or anything more—with you. For your own sake, take the hint, leave her alone and, please, learn from this experience so you won't repeat it with someone else.

DEAR ABBY: I am 60, and my husband is 64. We lost everything in the recession. A dear friend helped us get back on our feet, and my son and husband built a home on land we purchased with our last dollar. We have a mortgage and all the bills that come with it. We have no savings, pension or life insurance. I work 40 hours a week, and my husband is partially disabled from an autoimmune disease.

My son, who is studying to become an RN, is 33. He lives with us and pays $550 a month, which pays the property taxes. He has slowly brought his girlfriend into our home, whom we like, but she does not contribute financially. I have asked my son for some extra money, and he refused. We will always appreciate how he pitched in and helped us in creating a new home. What can I do without starting a family war?

KEEPING THE PEACE

DEAR KEEPING: It would have been interesting to know what reason your son gave you for his refusal. Continue talking with him about it. Unless the girlfriend is unemployed, she should at least pay for her food and a share of the utilities if she is living in your home.

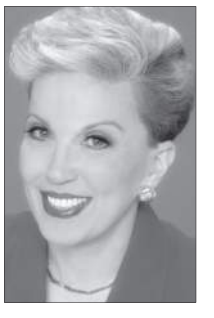
DEAR READERS: This is National Women's Health Week. Because of the current health crisis, taking care of your health is now more important than ever. Make it a priority. Eat healthy, give yourself the gift of exercise, manage your stress levels, get the sleep you need, and schedule that appointment to see your doctor or dentist as soon as they are seeing patients again. Take steps to eliminate behaviors that put you at risk -- smoking, texting while driving and not wearing a seatbelt. Your health is your most precious possession, so please, take care of it. For more information, visit womenshealth.gov.

Love, ABBY

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

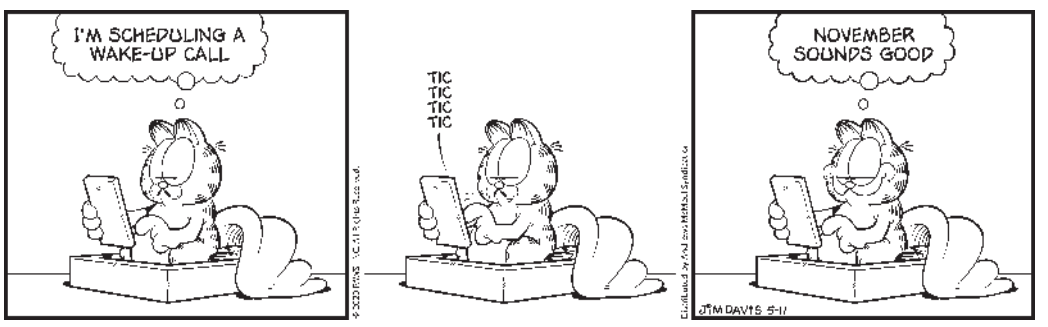
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

I'VE COME UP WITH A NEW SYSTEM FOR DOING HOMEWORK. I CALL IT "EFFECTIVE TIME MANAGEMENT," OR "ETM" FOR SHORT.
I'VE DRAWN UP A SCHEDULE FOR EACH SCHOOL SUBJECT, AND I USE THIS KITCHEN TIMER TO MONITOR MY PACE.
THANKS TO ETM, I'M MUCH MORE EFFICIENT, AND MY WORK GOES FASTER!
RINGG
THERE! MY MATH MINUTE IS UP! SET THE CLOCK FOR MY SPELLING ASSIGNMENT, OK?
UM, YOUR SCHEDULE CALLS FOR SMALLER TIME INCREMENTS THAN THIS CLOCK CAN MEASURE.

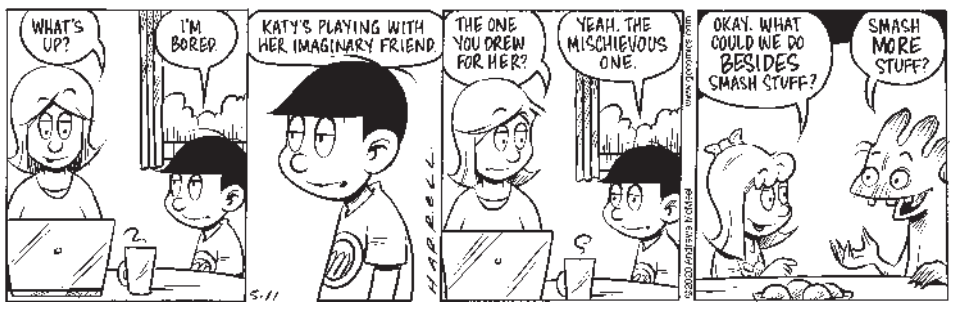
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHAT'S UP?
I'M BORED.
KATY'S PLAYING WITH HER IMAGINARY FRIEND.
THE ONE YOU DREW FOR HER?
YEAH. THE MISCHIEVOUS ONE.
OKAY. WHAT COULD WE DO BESIDES SMASH STUFF?
SMASH MORE STUFF?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I'VE HEARD OF ACCIDENTS HAPPENING, BUT THIS IS RIDICULOUS!
HOW SOMEONE COULD BE SO CLUMSY TO DROP SOMETHING LIKE THAT DOWN A PERSON'S THROAT IS UNBELIEVABLE!
OKAY, TAKE THE TONGUE DEPRESSOR OFF HIS BILL.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 "Law & Order: —"
4 Curved line
7 Rock's Mötley —
11 Roster
13 Narc's org.
14 Leak slowly
15 Computer brand
16 Scull need
17 Bridal accessory
18 Obama's veep
20 Theater box
22 Arrest
24 Tavern tally
28 FDR program
32 Andean animal
33 Pub orders
34 That girl
36 Love god
37 Ticked off
39 Rock band instruments
41 Boston athlete
43 Yoga pad
44 School session
46 "When pigs fly!"
50 Harp's cousin
53 Hearing thing
55 Indy event
56 Bum somewhat
57 "The Greatest"
58 — gin fizz
59 Priority Mail org.
60 World Series gp.
61 Conclusion

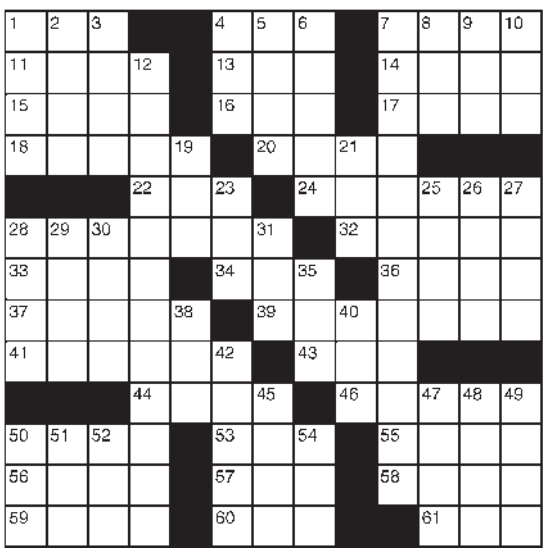
DOWN

1 Thick chunk
2 "Veni, vidi, —"
3 Second-hand
4 Big fuss
5 Genuine
6 Ersatz chocolate
7 They're sent with resumes
8 Shad product
9 Sub-machine gun
10 Snaky fish
12 Fashion pioneers
19 Scot's denial
21 Lass
23 "Humbug!"
25 O'Hara estate
26 Latin love
27 Striped fish
28 Dealer's foe
29 Writer Wiesel
30 Healthy
31 Table support
35 Piratic potation
38 Conk out
40 007 creator Fleming
42 Coffee add-in
45 Teen hangout
47 Low-lying region
48 Nobel Prize subj.
49 Marsh plant
50 Baton Rouge sch.
51 "You bet!"
52 Knock
54 Tease

Solution time: 26 mins.

C	A	L	L	S	■	R	S	T	■	A	S	P
A	R	I	A	L	■	I	C	I	■	V	I	■
L	E	O	N	■	B	A	P	I	I	Z	E	■
■	■	N	A	■	■	E	R	■	E	L	E	C
P	S	I	■	S	O	Y	■	L	E	A	S	E
G	A	Z	E	■	H	E	S	E	I	■	■	■
S	C	E	N	E	S	■	T	S	H	I	F	■
■	■	■	A	L	■	B	I	■	E	T	■	A
C	L	A	M	S	■	A	N	D	■	E	E	N
R	A	C	E	■	E	S	T	E	E	M	■	■
U	T	I	L	■	Z	E	■	B	L	I	S	S
M	T	N	■	C	R	S	■	R	A	Z	O	R
B	E	G	■	O	A	T	■	A	L	E	X	A

Last Friday's Answer 05/11



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Holly Valance, 37; Amanda Freitag, 48; Frances Fisher, 68; Eric Burdon, 79.

Happy Birthday: Take things in stride. Concentrate on what you want to accomplish instead of stressing over what others are doing or want you to do for them. It's time to be shrewd and to offer suggestions instead of taking over. Your happiness is your responsibility, and learning to say no when necessary is essential if you want to achieve your goals. Your numbers are 7, 13, 22, 27, 29, 34, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Start a hobby. Invest time in learning, getting in touch with your feelings and sharing your thoughts with someone special. Be proactive; find a way to make a difference. A strong will and an industrious mind will encourage positive change. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Don't give in to boredom. There is so much to see and even more to learn if you make an effort. Your attitude will make a difference to personal growth, a better lifestyle and how you move forward physically, intellectually and financially. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Do what you need to do. Embrace responsibilities, and put greater emphasis on detail, precision and quality work. Be suspicious of anyone boasting or putting pressure on you to get involved in questionable activities. Stick to simple, moderate plans and expenses. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Share your thoughts, and you will find solutions. An adjustment can improve productivity as well as your relationship with the people you deal with regularly. Don't let self-deception lead you down a rabbit hole. Recognize what has to be done, then proceed. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Inconsistency will be the enemy when dealing with others. Don't say anything that's not verified or make promises you aren't sure you can deliver. Your charm, coupled with confidence, will be inviting to those considering doing business with you. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Put updates in place. A trendy look or new technology will give you a positive attitude and a jump-start on what you want to do next. New opportunities are heading in your direction. Prepare to make a move. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Take care of your responsibilities, and stay out of everyone else's affairs. Catching up on projects you've left unfinished will ease stress. Physical activity is favored, and spending more time with someone you love is encouraged. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Step up to the podium and share what's on your mind. Whether in your personal or professional world, how you articulate what you think, feel and want will capture an audience. Don't hold back when you should be moving forward. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* It's time to reap the rewards. Put in the time and effort to turn your dream into a reality. Don't give in to distractions or tempting offers to indulge; refuse to ignore your responsibilities, and don't get involved in something you shouldn't. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Address partnerships, domestic matters and personal gains swiftly. Keep situations in perspective, and don't let your feelings lead you astray. Do what's necessary to keep moving forward. Have an open mind, offer honest opinions and finish what you start. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Listen, observe and distance yourself from anyone who is pushy, looking for a fight or unstable. Put greater emphasis on your physical well-being, personal environment and the people and things that make you happy. Keep the peace to avoid chaos. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Look for common ground when dealing with others, and it will help you sidestep a conflict that can hurt your chance to advance or your reputation. Listen attentively, and consider what you can suggest or offer that will encourage a favorable compromise. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are diligent, insightful and curious. You are proactive and engaging.

Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

7		6	2		4			
			8			3		
5			1				4	
9	8	7		4	2			5
			3		8			
3			7	1		2	8	6
	9				6			8
		2			7			
			5		1	9		2

Difficulty Level ★ 5/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

8	9	3	4	5	7	1	6	2
6	1	4	8	3	2	7	9	5
7	2	5	6	9	1	3	8	4
2	8	6	9	7	3	4	5	1
4	7	1	5	6	8	2	3	9
3	5	9	2	1	4	8	7	6
5	3	2	7	4	9	6	1	8
1	6	8	3	2	5	9	4	7
9	4	7	1	8	6	5	2	3

Difficulty Level ★★★★

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

SUMMERS IN SCANDINAVIA — Solution: 10 letters

K	C	O	A	C	H	F	S	M	O	R	A	I	N	E
R	R	T	O	U	R	J	T	L	S	S	C	T	A	Y
O	C	A	F	C	T	O	A	W	A	E	D	D	T	S
N	R	T	M	R	W	R	E	I	L	E	N	O	E	S
A	U	O	S	N	U	D	I	A	E	A	S	S	R	E
G	I	P	S	E	E	S	N	P	L	Y	U	H	U	G
N	S	R	S	N	L	D	S	A	A	B	O	E	T	D
I	E	S	P	T	Ⓔ	U	S	W	L	S	T	O	A	I
K	N	B	C	O	F	Ⓚ	R	E	T	N	S	R	R	R
I	L	O	E	E	R	O	Ⓐ	E	R	L	I	A	E	B
V	I	B	R	A	N	T	L	Ⓛ	O	E	M	F	P	E
A	G	O	P	D	C	I	D	E	A	L	N	N	M	A
L	H	A	E	K	I	H	C	O	A	S	T	I	E	U
U	T	T	O	L	L	C	L	I	M	A	T	E	T	T
E	S	R	E	V	I	D	L	I	M	F	E	R	R	Y

© 2020 Tribune Media Services, Inc. www.wonderword.com 5/11

Airport, Aland, Beach, Beauty, Boat, Bridges, Buses, Climate, Coach, Coast, Cruise, Denmark, Diverse, Faroe, Ferry, Finland, Fjords, Hike, Hostel, Iceland, Ideal, Krona, Lake, Lights, Lofts, Mild, Mist, Moraine, Nordic, Norway, Oslo, Parks, Potato, Rules, Scenic, Seals, Serenity, Speed, Surf, Sweden, Temperature, Toll, Tour, Towns, Trip, Value, Viking

Last Friday's Answer: Pork

To purchase WONDERWORD books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

NBA weighs 'bad options' for season restart

NEW YORK—NBA commissioner Adam Silver said Friday that the focus is on restarting the season but that "there will be a series of bad options" in deciding how that will be done.

Silver had a conference call Friday with National Basketball Players Association executive director Michele Roberts, NBPA president Chris Paul and players to discuss the league's ongoing strategy to deal with the coronavirus pandemic.

Silver doesn't have to make a decision on whether to resume the season until some point in June, sources said, but the commissioner said there would likely be no fans present for games and that many cities have contacted him about hosting the resumed season.

The NBA would be facing a tremendous economic blow because Silver said attendance makes up 40 percent of the league's revenue.

Microsoft founder Bill Gates recently stated that he doesn't see fans going back to live sporting events until a vaccine is readily available to the public. Silver said he found those remarks disheartening, sources said, because a vaccine is likely more than a year away from production.

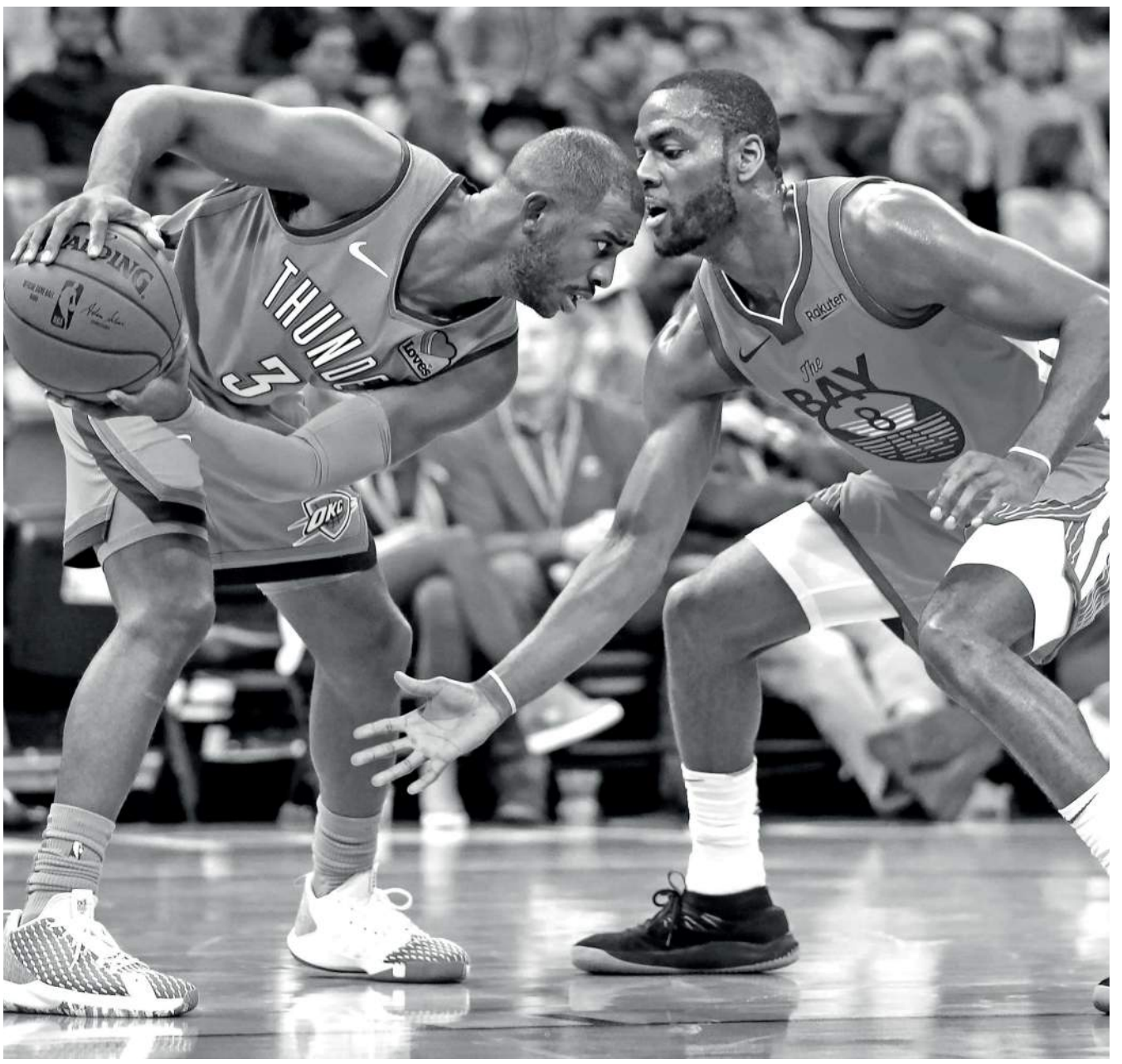
Silver said it's less risky to restart the season in a single location or perhaps two, sources said, and that he's not ruling out Toronto as a possible site, although the preference is to keep the games in the U.S. Silver also said Orlando and Las Vegas are options if the season were to continue, with each respectively serving as Eastern and Western Conference sites, sources said.

Silver said the goal is to play full seven-game series in the playoffs. He said tough decisions will need to be made because teams on the postseason bubble might not get a chance to clinch a spot if the league's hiatus continues much longer.

The NBA season was suspended March 11 after Utah Jazz All-Star and two-time Defensive Player of the Year Rudy Gobert tested positive for COVID-19. Silver said Friday that Gobert wasn't the first NBA player to be tested for the coronavirus, but that he was the first to test positive, sources said.

Paul expressed concern on behalf of players that some organizations could be pressuring players to work out at team facilities, sources said. Silver reiterated that it's optional and advised Paul to follow up with the league if that conduct persists.

Should the season get the green light to return, Silver said he believes three to six weeks of training camp would be required before returning to competition.



AP

In this Nov. 9, 2019 file photo, Oklahoma City Thunder's Chris Paul (3) goes against Golden State Warriors' Alec Burks (8) during the first half of an NBA game in Oklahoma City.

Shaq: Scrap season

If Shaquille O'Neal had his way, though, he'd simply move on.

In his eyes, there's no point in trying to finish the season.

"We should scrap the season," the Hall of Famer and NBA analyst said on Friday, via the New York Post. "Continue to care about the safety of the players and the people, let the government figure out how they're going to get rid of this thing forever. I hate hearing this statement, oh it's going to come back, it's going to come back."

There were more than 1.3 million confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the United States as of Saturday afternoon, according to The New York Post, and more than 78,000 deaths attributed to the virus.

It's now been nearly two months since live basketball took place. Players are rusty, and teams will look totally different should the season resume. It could end up leading to an unexpected or even undeserving team winning the title this season, too, something O'Neal doesn't think is fair.

"Most of the time you could predict who is going to win a championship. Now what if we come back and a team that wasn't supposed to win wins? There's going to be an asterisk behind that championship," O'Neal said, via the New York Post. "I think, personally, we should say, 'OK, let's just continue to worry about the safety of the people and the players, and we'll see you guys in training camp.'

One of the ideas to resume play involves holding games with no fans and limited personnel present—whether the games are played in a singular location or not.

While that would prohibit any fans from being at risk, O'Neal pointed out that there would still be lots of other people in the arena.

"If we try to finish the season with no fans, you still got to bring in a camera crew, you still got to bring in the trainers, you still got to bring in other people," O'Neal said, via the New York Post. "What if one of those guys gets it? All it takes is one."

Testing for players, staff

The NBA has reportedly made a turnaround on the testing of asymptomatic players and staff for COVID-19. According to Adrian Wojnarowski of ESPN, the NBA will allow teams that have reopened their facilities to test asymptomatic players and staff—but only if tests are readily available in that area.

Team facilities began to reopen on Friday, with the Cleveland Cavaliers and Portland Trail Blazers being the first. The Toronto Raptors, Denver Nuggets, Miami Heat, Sacramento Kings, and Atlanta Hawks are expected to do the same in the next week. According to Woj, the Orlando Magic, Los Angeles Clippers, and Los Angeles Lakers are among the teams that would be eligible for the "limited exception" to the testing rule due to local testing programs. ***(NBC/AP)***

Salary cap will be lowered next season

NEW YORK—Current NBA salary cap: $109,140,000.

Projected NBA salary cap for next season: $115,000,000.

Of course, that projection came before the NBA suspended its season due the coronavirus. The stoppage is costing the league significant money. With it appearing increasingly likely fans won't be able to attend games next season, that's even more lost revenue ahead.

Marc Berman of the New York Post said there is so much uncertainty with the coronavirus pandemic, but one thing is for sure: the salary cap will be lowered, according to league sources.

A big question: Will the salary be lower than this season or lower than the last projection for next season? There's obviously a big difference.

The salary cap has decreased just twice ever. It went from $42,500,000 in 2001-02 to $40,271,000 in 2002-03. After being $58.68 million in 2008-09, it fell to $57.7 million in 2009-10.

Owners and players split Basketball Related Income (BRI) approximately 50-50. So far, owners have generally bore the brunt of coronavirus-caused financial pain. Players will soon take their lumps, having 25 percent of their salaries withheld. But it's unclear just how much less revenue will be made this season than initially expected. If players don't give back enough salary to reach that approximate 50-50 split of BRI, that could trigger a lowering of next season's salary cap.

The salary cap is generally determined by projected revenue. But if players got paid too much (based on the approximate 50-50 split), the cap can be reduced the following season.

Next season could be hit with a double whammy – lower-than-expected revenue plus players getting paid more than their fair share this season.

That's part of why players are giving back money now. A goal was keeping the salary cap relatively steady. This is a second chance at cap smoothing.

But perhaps the revenue losses from coronavirus will be so drastic, the salary cap will decrease regardless (though not as sharply as if no countermeasures were taken).

A lower salary cap would particularly hurt players who signed max contract extensions last offseason – 76ers' Ben Simmons, Nuggets' Jamal Murray and Raptors' Pascal Siakam. The max is based on a percentage of the salary cap. If the salary cap lands below $95,535,716, Celtics wing Jaylen Brown would also have his extension reduced.

First-round picks also generally have their four-year contracts based on the salary cap the year they sign. So, the 2020 draft class could suffer.

Free agents next offseason would also generally get squeezed. Some could opt for shorter contracts rather than locking into long-term deals with a relatively low starting salary. On the flip side, teams could get value with the risk-averse free agents who'd sign long-term under these conditions.

If the teams can afford it.

The luxury tax generally rises and falls with the salary cap. A lower luxury-tax line could burden many teams and produce a tremendous advantage for the teams with lower payrolls. Those latter teams could extract sweeteners by trading for expensive players and/or receive relatively high distribution payments from tax teams. Even more than a lower salary cap, a lower tax line could significantly alter the landscape. Which is why the luxury tax could be calculated differently next season—or even suspended.

Everything is up for negotiation in these unprecedented times.

But consider this report a clue in the direction things are headed. ***(NBC/AP)***

MLB draft cut from 40 rounds to 5

NEW YORK (AP)—Major League Baseball will cut its amateur draft from 40 rounds to five this year, a move that figures to save teams about $30 million.

Clubs gained the ability to reduce the draft as part of their March 26 agreement with the players' association and MLB plans to finalize a decision next week to go with the minimum, a person familiar with the decision told The Associated Press. The person spoke Friday on condition of anonymity because no decision was announced.

There will be just 160 players drafted, by far the fewest since the annual selection started in 1965, and the combined value of their signing bonus pools is $235,906,800. The amount of signing bonus pool money eliminated is $29,578,100.

Teams made the move with the season delayed by the coronavirus pandemic and the sport trying to cut expenses to cope with revenue loss.

"Particularly given the negligible economic impact to what's already a cheap acquisition cost, this approach is is grossly shortsighted," said agent Jeff Berry, co-head of CAA Baseball. "To drastically reduce opportunity and talent and talent pools, it stunts growth and diversity at all levels and is really a self-inflicted sabotage of the long-term health and popularity of the game."

The start date of the draft will remain June 10 and the deadline to sign likely will be pushed back from July 10 to Aug. 1, the person said. The draft will be cut from three days to two.

AP
In this Feb. 6, 2020, file photo, Major League Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred answers questions at a news conference during MLB baseball owners meetings in Orlando, Fla. Major League Baseball will cuts its amateur draft from 40 rounds to five this year, a move that figures to save teams about $30 million.

As part of the agreement with the union, slot values to determine signing bonus pools will remain at 2019 levels and players passed over in the draft are limited to signing bonuses of $20,000 or less. That might cause more high school players elect to go to college. And because of the NCAA's limit of 11.7 baseball scholarships, the change may lead to more prospects attending junior college.

"You can't afford to live when you sign for $20,000 in the minor leagues," agent Scott Boras said. "They also may develop in college to be first rounders, which is the category we're looking for. So so it gives you more opportunity to have more first rounders."

Berry said the decision was part of "furtherance down that slippery slope of diminishing the value and the importance of players" and linked it to other moves players decry and to the Houston Astros' cheating scandal.

"For any ownership group that supports this course of action as advisable or, frankly, is so cash-strapped that this mid-six-figure savings is a financial necessity, they should do everyone a favor, including their fellow owners, and sell their franchises," he said. "Does anyone think it's that big of an ethical jump from hijacking the draft, tanking and service manipulation to hidden cameras and banging on trash cans? All those behaviors and attitudes, they're not analytic or intelligent or efficient, they're just unethical, and they reveal a lack of respect for players and fans."

All but six of last year's sixth-round picks signed for $200,000 or more. Chicago Cubs catcher/first baseman Ethan Hearn had the highest bonus of the round at $950,000, deciding to sign rather than attend Mississippi State.

San Francisco signed right-hander John McDonald, selected 326th on the 11th round, for $797,500, and Arizona gave left-hander Avery Short, picked 362nd on the 12th round, $922,500.

Among 1,082 players who were in a big league game last year after coming through the draft, 180 were first-round picks and 589 were selected during the first five rounds, according to the commissioner's office. There were 204 from rounds six to 10, 102 from rounds 11-15 and 63 from rounds 16-20. Just 74 were from rounds 21-30 and only 50 from rounds 31-50.

Once unlimited, the draft was cut to 50 rounds in 1998 and to 40 rounds in 2012.

"On every major league team, development and scouting departments are extremely upset about this," Boras said. "This is strictly about minimal short-term economic benefit that could cost millions of dollars, with the loss of a No. 1 pick being injured or a No. 1 pick not developing to the full stature of his potential."

Signing bonus pools started in 2012 and limit the amount of money teams can spend. Each slot in the first 10 rounds is a signed a value—the range last year was $8,415,300 down to $142,200—and each team's values are added to a form a pool. Signing bonuses in the first 10 rounds count against the pool along with the amounts above $125,000 of players selected after the 10th round or who were bypassed in the draft and then signed.

A team that exceeds its pool is taxed, and a club more than 5% above loses a first-round draft pick the next year—a threshold never reached.

Players turned down a proposal last week that would have kept rounds 6-10 in exchange for cutting their slot values in half.

Teams drafted 1,217 players over 40 rounds last June and have signed 960 at a total bonus cost of $316,560,984. In addition, 159 players passed over in the draft signed for $1,514,700.

As part of the deal with the union, teams have the right to cut the 2021 draft to as few as 20 rounds. That fits in MLB's proposal to cut their minimum minor league affiliations from 160 to 120 in 2021, allowing each organization to drop one farm team.

For both 2020 and '21, only up to $100,000 of each signing bonus is due within 30 days of approval and 50% of the remainder on July 1 in both 2020 and '21.

Woods, Mickelson, QBs to donate $10M to virus relief

HOBE SOUND, Fla. (AP)—The next match involving Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson involves a $10 million donation for COVID-19 relief efforts, along with plenty of bragging rights in a star-powered foursome May 24 at Medalist Golf Club.

Turner Sports announced more details Thursday for "The Match: Champions for Charity," a televised match between Woods and Peyton Manning against Mickelson and Tom Brady.

Medalist is where Woods plays when he's at home. Manning and Brady said they have played there before—Manning running out of golf balls before reaching the 18th, Brady posting a 106.

The format will be better ball for the front nine and modified alternate shot on the back nine, meaning both players hit tee shots and they take turns from there.

It will be simulcast on May 24 at 3 p.m. EDT on TNT, TBS, truTV and HLN, along with pre-match coverage available on the Bleacher Report app.

WarnerMedia and the four players will collectively make a charitable donation of $10 million to benefit various relief efforts locally and nationally. Turner said the match includes a partnership with the "All In Challenge," an initiative that provides food for those in need.

Mickelson beat Woods in a playoff under the lights in Las Vegas over Thanksgiving weekend in 2018. This time, they are bringing in two of the NFL's greatest quarterbacks to add to the entertainment.

The announcement came with a video interview by TNT's Ernie Johnson of the four players, in which Brady said he wanted Woods as a partner until Manning's father called to switch the teams.

The match will be held one week after live golf returns to television for the first time since the coronavirus pandemic shut down the PGA Tour and other tours around the world. Rory McIlroy and Dustin Johnson will play a charity match against Rickie Fowler and Matthew Wolff at Seminole Golf Club, one of Florida's most famous courses that will have a televised event for the first time.

Meanwhile, the Memorial Tournament in Dublin, Ohio, will use high-tech radio frequency identification (RFID) chips in tournament badges to ensure social distancing is maintained at the July 16-19 PGA Tour event.

The tracking system was just one of several measures that will be put in place to deal with the coronavirus outbreak that has wreaked havoc with world sport and forced a reworking of the of the PGA Tour calendar.

Speaking on a "Virtual Sports Report" conducted via Zoom on Thursday by the Greater Columbus Sports Commission, Memorial Tournament director Dan Sullivan indicated a limited number of fans will be allowed on the course but movements would be restricted and monitored.

Other protocols, according the Golf Digest report, include limiting ticket sales, curtailing capacity in the clubhouse and public gathering structures, elimination of all grandstands, supplying face coverings for staff and volunteers and taking the temperature of everyone who enters the grounds.

"We're going to use that technology to make sure that we're protecting everyone around us, protecting the folks that are inside those various venues and make sure that we're monitoring effectively and producing a tournament that everyone can be comfortable with," Sullivan said.

Brady's move to Tampa Bay changes NFL schedule

FLORIDA (AP)—Tom Brady's move to Tampa Bay didn't just create ripples with fans. It caused networks to drastically rework their last-minute requests with the NFL scheduling office to make sure the Buccaneers got as many high-profile dates as possible.

When the NFL's regular-season schedule was announced on Thursday night, all of the league television partners were satisfied with how Tampa Bay's games were distributed. The Bucs are slated to make five prime-time appearances (one Thursday, two Sunday night, two Monday night) with all of them slated between Weeks 5-12. That's a pretty big audible for a team that was expected to have maybe two at best before signing Brady.

Pending developments in the coronavirus pandemic, Tampa Bay's opener at New Orleans will be Fox's featured "America's Game of the Week," as will the Oct. 18 game against Green Bay. CBS will showcase the Bucs in the 4:25 p.m. EST window on Nov. 29, when they host defending Super Bowl champion Kansas City. Fox—which has the NFC and Thursday night packages—has Tampa Bay nine times, while CBS, ESPN and NBC each have them twice. The Week 16 game at Detroit will be on either Fox or NFL Network, which will be determined later in the season.

AP

In this Jan. 4, 2020 file photo, New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady (12) throws a pass against the Tennessee Titans during the second half in an NFL wild-card playoff football game, in Foxborough, Mass.

Fox has five of Tampa Bay's first six games, including its first prime-time game on Thursday, Oct. 8 at Chicago.

"I can't think of a single player move ever that adjusted requests and turned the process upside down as much as this," said Fox Sports senior vice president Michael Mulvihill about Brady signing with Tampa Bay. "I think the league treated everyone well with Tampa Bay because they knew how great everyone's interest was. It was a significant curveball."

Brady's former team isn't dropping off the radar. New England has five scheduled prime-time appearances (one Thursday, two Sunday night, two Monday night) and has the featured CBS late afternoon spot at Kansas City (Oct. 4) and versus San Francisco (Oct. 25).

"They are still going to be a big story for us. Plus, I will never sell Bill Belichick short," CBS Sports chairman Sean McManus said. "They still have a great tradition and legacy."

Kick-off

The Kansas City Chiefs will open defense of their Super Bowl championship by hosting Houston on Sept. 10 in the NFL's annual kickoff game—pending developments in the coronavirus pandemic, of course.

The Texans won a regular-season game at Arrowhead Stadium in 2019, then blew a 24-0 lead in the divisional round of the playoffs.

The Chiefs, who won their first Super Bowl in a half-century last February, need baseball's Royals to move their game for Sept. 10, which now is part of a doubleheader two days earlier. The teams' stadiums share parking lots.

The NFL schedule, not to mention offseason activities and the preseason, has to be considered tentative given the current prohibition on large gatherings.

But Commissioner Roger Goodell has said the league is planning for a normal season, albeit while making contingency plans.

Meanwhile, Los Angeles' SoFi Stadium and Las Vegas' Allegiant Stadium will get their own spotlight during the first two weeks. New stadiums have traditionally received the Sunday night game in Week 2, but this is the first time since 2002 that there have been multiple openings.

The Rams opener against Dallas is the NBC Sunday night game on the opening week, while the Raiders' first game in Las Vegas will be on Monday night in Week 2, against New Orleans. The Sept. 21 game also marks 50 years since the first Monday night game, and will be simulcast on ABC and ESPN.

FLASHBACK

From Page 20

After their semis victories, the Braves and Falcons waited for a while to return to the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield. The highly anticipated "Battle of the North" was pushed back two weeks later to give way to the CNMI District Tournament and when the title showdown finally took place, the Manny Evangelista-managed Falcons completed their title defense.

The Falcons eased their way to a 9-2 triumph in the finals to earn back-to-back titles, thanks again to Yaguel's solid performance on the mound, as he lasted six innings and fanned seven batters.

Meanwhile, the Falcons understood the need to scrap the 2020 season of the SLLB season and wish to return to the field next year.

"All this quarantine at home makes our players miss playing baseball. It is good exercise for the body and mind. It is our hope that these games can be a reality for all the players. But again safety first and we need to assess the current and future effect of the COVID-19 pandemic before implementing friendly games. Hopefully, we can play ball," said Evangelista, whose Senior League Falcons have been eager to extend their reign in the league.

The Falcons topped the 2016 to 2018 Senior League competitions before the division had to shelve its 2019 season due to the Super Typhoon Yutu.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Braves and Falcons players exchange high-fives after their title match in the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

HALL

From Page 20

and Michelle to share their time and expertise in helping develop young athletes.

"He was truly an inspiration to his children," Tebuteb said.

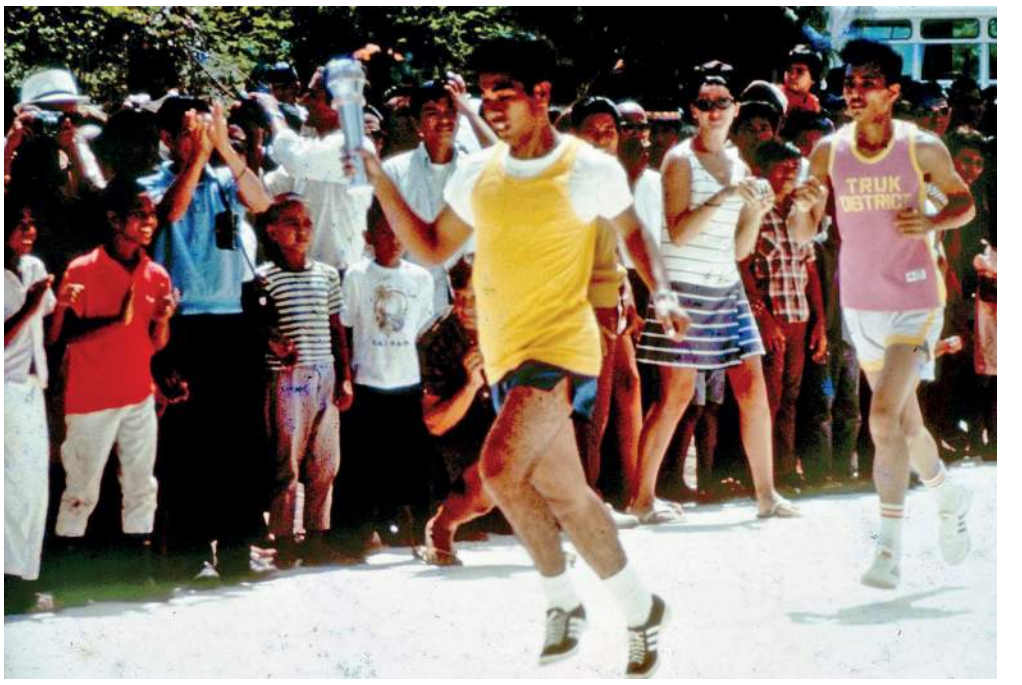
"NMA extends its condolences to Tino's wife, Jean, and his children and other family members," the NMA head added.

Northern Marianas Sports Association also released a brief statement to condole with the family of Olopai.

"Our heartfelt condolences to the family of CNMI Sports Hall of Famer Tino Olopai. Mr. Olopai epitomized a well-respected and accomplished athlete, as he had shown great sportsmanship and leadership while competing for the CNMI in various sports. NMSA is honored to have enshrined Mr. Olopai into the CNMI Sports Hall of Fame. Our thoughts and prayers are with Mr. Olopai's family at these challenging times," NMSA said.

Meanwhile, Ron Olopai thanked the people who reached out to their family upon learning the death of his father.

"We would like to thank everyone for all the heartfelt thoughts and prayers," Ron said.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this 1969 file photo supplied by Kurt Barnes, Tino Olopai participates in the Micronesian Olympics' torch relay.

NBA weighs 'bad options' for season restart

PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune
Sports

MLB draft cut from 40 rounds to 5

PAGE 18

Hall of Famer Tino Olopai, 75

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tino Olopai attended the NMSA Sports Banquet in 2011 to reunite with former teammates and his friends and was not thinking about getting the recognition he truly deserved for making a mark in CNMI sports.

That's how humble he was as an athlete and a great friend who's always ready to accommodate people dear to him. Olopai passed away last Saturday at his residence in As Lito. He was 75.

The well-respected athlete was inducted into the CNMI Sports Hall of Fame nine years ago after excelling in multiple sports—basketball, volleyball, softball, and baseball—in 1960s and 1970s. Among the highlights of his more than two decades of playing various sports was his role in the 1969 Micronesian Olympics held on Saipan. Olopai lit the cauldron of the event that gave birth to the Micronesian Games. He was also a member of the storied Breakers Team, which set a 60-plus winning streak in a basketball league on Saipan in the 1960s.

"We were teammates in basketball and volleyball," said Kurt Barnes, also a CNMI Hall of Famer, as he recalled how he met Olopai.

Barnes arrived on Saipan in 1967 as a Peace Corps volunteer and one night he went out to drink soda at the then famous Saipan Inn at Chalan Kanoa. After finishing his bottle, more came, courtesy of Olopai.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
In this 1969 file photo supplied by Kurt Barnes, Tino Olopai lits the cauldron to kick off the Micronesian Olympics held on Saipan.

"He was waving at me while saying hi. Such a wonderful person and always ready to accommodate his friends," said Barnes, who was among the sports leaders, past and present, who paid tribute to the late Olopai and offered their condolences to the latter's family.

Northern Marianas Athletics president vice president Ray Tebuteb said NMA considered Olopai not only as a great athlete, but also as close family member. Olopai's son, Ron, is one of NMA's national coaches, having been with the program for more than a decade. Tebuteb added that Olopai' involvement in sports encouraged his children Ron

See HALL on Page 19

SAIPAN TRIBUNE
In this Feb. 17, 2011 file photo, Tino Olopai, center, is joined by his wife, Jean, and friends for a group photo after being inducted into the CNMI Sports Hall of Fame during the NMSA Banquet at Kanoa Resort.

Flashback: 'Battle of the North'

SAIPAN TRIBUNE
A Braves batter waits for the pitch from the Falcons' Arby Yaguel during their title match in the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

On this day, six years ago, the Talaabwogh Falcons and the NSA Braves prevailed in their respective semis matches to arrange the "Battle of the North" with the Major division championship in the Saipan Little League Baseball at stake.

The then defending champions Falcons advanced to the finals following a 6-2 win over the Comets 1, while the Braves reached the title game after eliminating McDonald's in the other semis tiff, 9-7.

Arby Yaguel towed the Falcons to the championship game after shutting down the Comets I in the first five innings before yielding two runs late in the sixth inning. The Falcons starting pitcher also struck out eight batters in 5.4 innings before Max Pangelinan took over the mound.

In the other semis duel, the Braves, after a neck-and-neck battle with McDonald's in the first two innings, had a five-run top of the third to take a 9-3 lead and withstand their foes' rally.

See FLASHBACK on Page 19